Sweety Gem Volume 02
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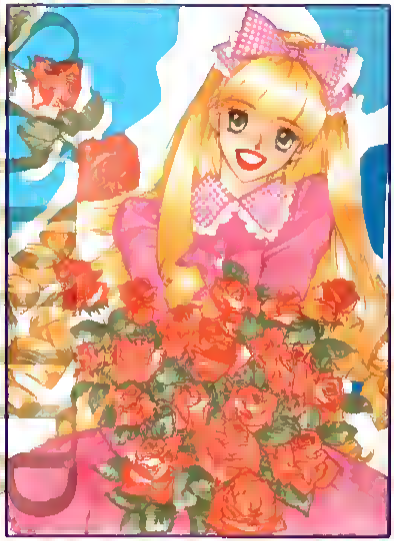

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SWEETY CEM

Park Eun Ah

2

SAPHIRA

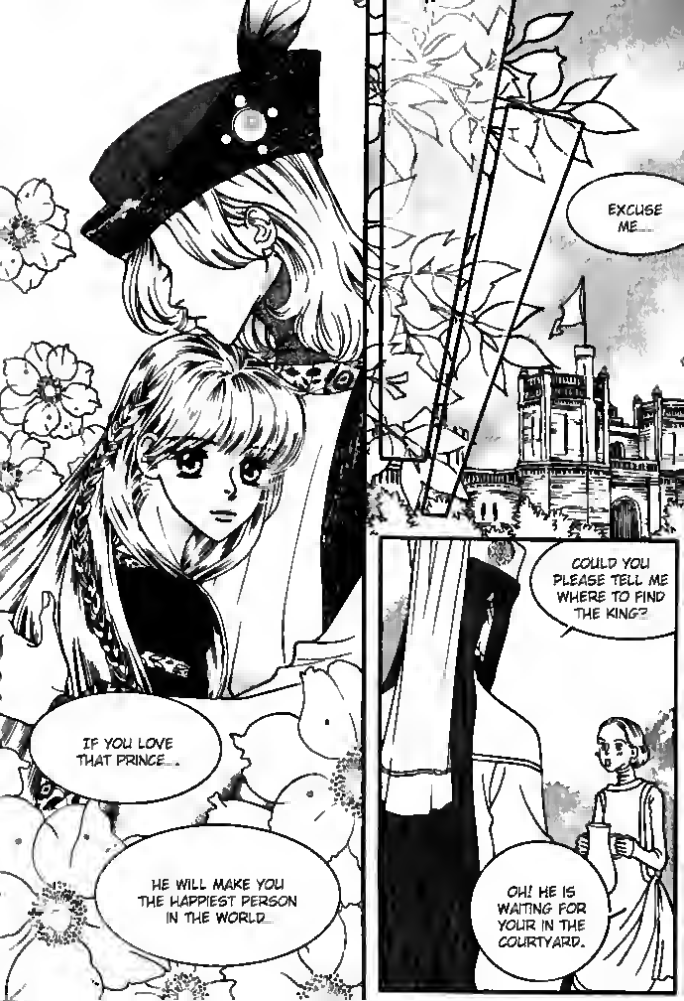
Park Eun Ah

2

SWEETY CEM

SAPHIRA

YOU MUST NEVER LOSE HOPE, RUBY...
TO FIND YOUR ONE TRUE LOVE...
IT'S SIMPLE, AND YET IT IS VERY HARD AT THE SAME TIME...
EVEN IF THIS JEWEL IS A CURSE...
KEEP IT WITH YOU ALWAYS. UNTIL THE DAY YOU MEET THE PRINCE WHO MAKES IT GLOW RED.

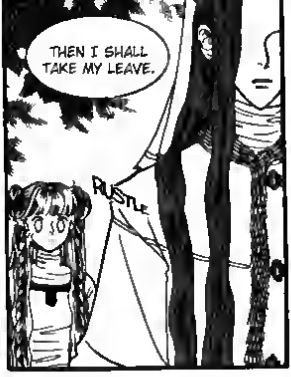

EXCUSE ME...
COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHERE TO FIND THE KING?
OH! HE IS WAITING FOR YOUR IN THE COURTYARD.
IF YOU LOVE THAT PRINCE...
HE WILL MAKE YOU THE HAPPIEST PERSON IN THE WORLD...

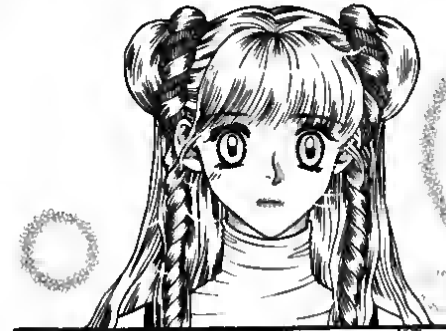
OH! IT'S LORD JULIAN!! WHAT IS HE DOING?
TAP
TAP
IT'S SO RARE TO SEE HIM IN HUMAN FORM. IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW HIM LIKE THAT
THE KING REQUESTED HIS PRESENCE
BUT WHO IS HE?
HE'S LORD JULIAN, THE KING OF TREES
HUH?
KING OF TREES?

P- PRINCESS!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STRANGE
GREEN HAIR
Stop!
WHO...

WHO ARE YOU?

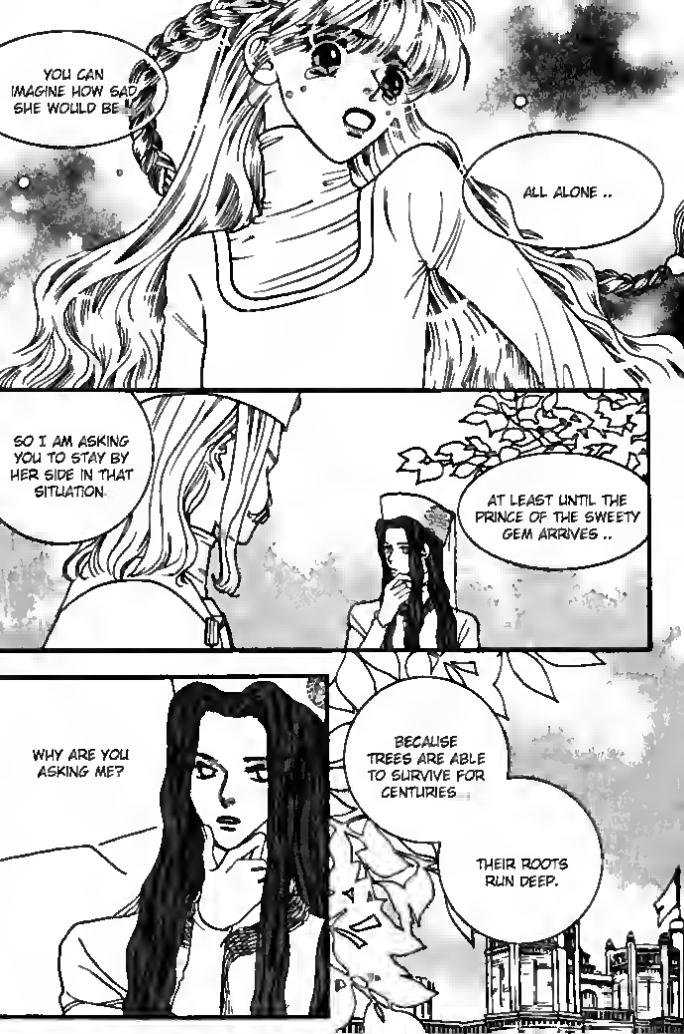
EH HEH HEH HEH! MY NAME'S RUBY...
SHUDDER
DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK ME?
N- NO NOTHING...

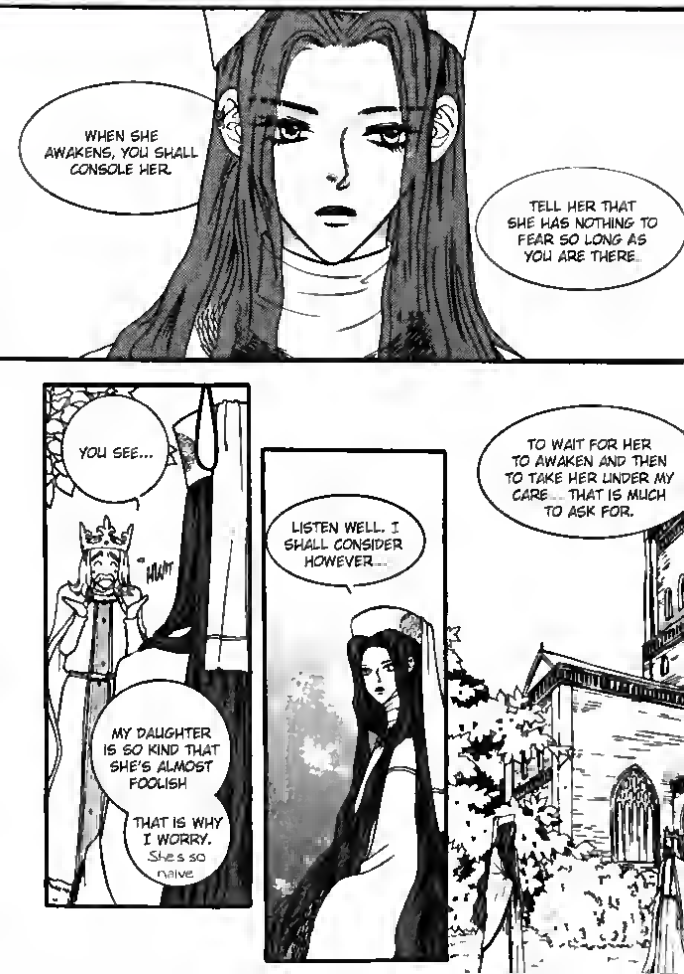

THEN I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE.
RUSTLE


JULIAN... HIS NAME IS JULIAN!

AH, JULIAN! WELCOME!
YOUR HIGHNESS SENT FOR ME?

YES, YOU SEE...
IT CONCERNS MY DAUGHTER, RUBY.
...!
WE HAVE TAKEN EVERY POSSIBLE PRECAUTION, BUT SHOULD SHE EVER BECOME TRAPPED IN THE SWEETY GEM...
WITH ANY LUCK, SHE'LL AWAKEN QUICKLY...
HOWEVER,
IT MAY BE AFTER HER PARENTS HAVE PASSED...
THEREIN LIES THE PROBLEM.
SHOULD SHE AWAKEN AND NOBODY IS THERE...


YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW SAD SHE WOULD BE !
ALL ALONE ..
SO I AM ASKING YOU TO STAY BY HER SIDE IN THAT SITUATION.
AT LEAST UNTIL THE PRINCE OF THE SWEETY GEM ARRIVES ..
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
BECAUSE TREES ARE ABLE TO SURVIVE FOR CENTURIES
THEIR ROOTS RUN DEEP.


WHEN SHE AWAKENS, YOU SHALL CONSOLE HER.
TELL HER THAT SHE HAS NOTHING TO FEAR SO LONG AS YOU ARE THERE.
YOU SEE...
"HMM"
MY DAUGHTER IS SO KIND THAT SHE'S ALMOST FOOLISH
THAT IS WHY I WORRY. She's so naive.
LISTEN WELL. I SHALL CONSIDER HOWEVER...
TO WAIT FOR HER TO AWAKEN AND THEN TO TAKE HER UNDER MY CARE... THAT IS MUCH TO ASK FOR.

THIS TREE MUST BE JULIAN.
I COME EVERY DAY, BUT IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME.
I SAW LOTS OF GOOD TREES AROUND THE VILLAGE, BUT THERE'S ONE I REALLY LIKE.
THERE! THAT'S THE ONE!
MAYBE HE'LL APPEAR IF I WAIT ALL NIGHT TOO!
HE HE
MMM, I'M SO SMART!
TAP TAP

WHO'S THAT GIRL?
HEY, KID, MOVE IT!
ME?
WHY?
WHADDA YA MEAN!? BECAUSE I'M GOING TO CUT IT DOWN!
WHAT!?
CUT IT DOWN!?
THIS TREE?
TSAP
NO!
THIS IS NO ORDINARY TREE!

WAHAHAHA! "NO ORDINARY TREE"? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT?
YOU... WHAT'D YOU SAY!?
BRRRR
IT BECOMES A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN!!
NOTHING LIKE YOU, YOU FAT OLD PIG!
I mean... You can't cut this tree...
FWIIT
FWIIT
I'M GONNA TEACH YOU A LESSON, KID!!!
You push my buttons!
COUIC
KAI KAI
If... if my father catches you, you're the one who'll be taught a lesson!
My father is the most powerful man in the kingdom!!!

...
IT'S TRUE
RELEASE
HICH HICH
RUNNING AWAY? COWARDS!!
TITUS
IF YOU TOUCH EVEN ONE LEAF OF THIS TREE, YOU'LL ANSWER TO ME!

Touch
HMPH...
IT'S A COMMON OCCURENCE, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE SHAKING WHERE DID THAT COURAGE COME FROM?
I WOULD NEVER LET IT HAPPEN. DO YOU HAVE NO FAITH IN ME, MY LITTLE PRINCESS?

...?
GRAB
P-PRINCESS!?
WAKE UP!!
SPLAFF
PRINCESS!!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU?
DON'T GO TO UNFAMILIAR PLACES
AND DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS!!

AND MIND YOUR MANNERS...
LORD JULIAN HAD TO CARRY YOU HOME YESTERDAY!
..
JULIAN? CARRIED ME? ALL THE WAY HERE!?
YES. HE LEFT WITHOUT A WORD. HE DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU.
PRINCESS! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
YOU MUST GET DRESSED!
TAP
TAP
TAP

CRACK
YOU KNOW, A WICKED WITCH PUT A SPELL ON ME.
SO... THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME AND SEE YOU ANYMORE...
BUT...
IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE...
DON'T FORGET ME...?

Sometime later, both the princess and the Sweety Gem vanished.

And so the tree waited for hundreds of years.

Time passed...
LOOK AGAIN!
YES MA'AM...
I ADVERTISED EVERYWHERE...
STILL NOTHING, MA'AM.

KEEP CHECKING UNTIL THE NAME RUBY APPEARS!
Yes, ma am...
WHAT THE HELL IS SHE WAITING FOR?
SHE MUST KNOW THAT TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO SIGN UP
PFFF...
BAM

IAN, DO YOU FEEL UNWELL?
POUND
ARE YOU WORRIED?
OW!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME OR NOT?
WHAT'S WITH YOU!?
BAM
COULD IT BE YOU'RE IN LOVE?
NO... NO!
OKAY! DON'T GET SO WORKED UP.

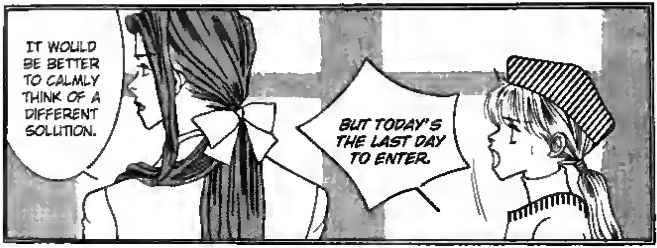
THE REASON THE SWEETY GEM TURNED RED..
TRUE, I THINK SHE'S NOT LIKE OTHER GIRLS
DAMN, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT..
BUT I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE.

WHAT WOULD SHE SAY IF SHE KNEW?
I'D ACT LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL
Heh heh.. The jewel must be ornery. It's all red.
..
Oh. That's nothing! It does that
Don't worry about it
Forget all about it, Mr. son of a witch!!
AAAARGH!!

Of course don't worry!
Mommy do you think I really could be a model?

I CAN'T GIVE UP THE SWEETY GEM

IT'S JUST A TRAP
IT'S FOOLISH TO ACTUALLY GO.
BUT I'VE GOT TO GET IT BACK.


IT WOULD BE BETTER TO CALMLY THINK OF A DIFFERENT SOLUTION.
BUT TODAY'S THE LAST DAY TO ENTER.

...
IS IT WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED...
...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED
FORGET IT! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!
PRINCESS!!
I WANT TO PUT THE SWEETY GEM IN YOUR HAND!

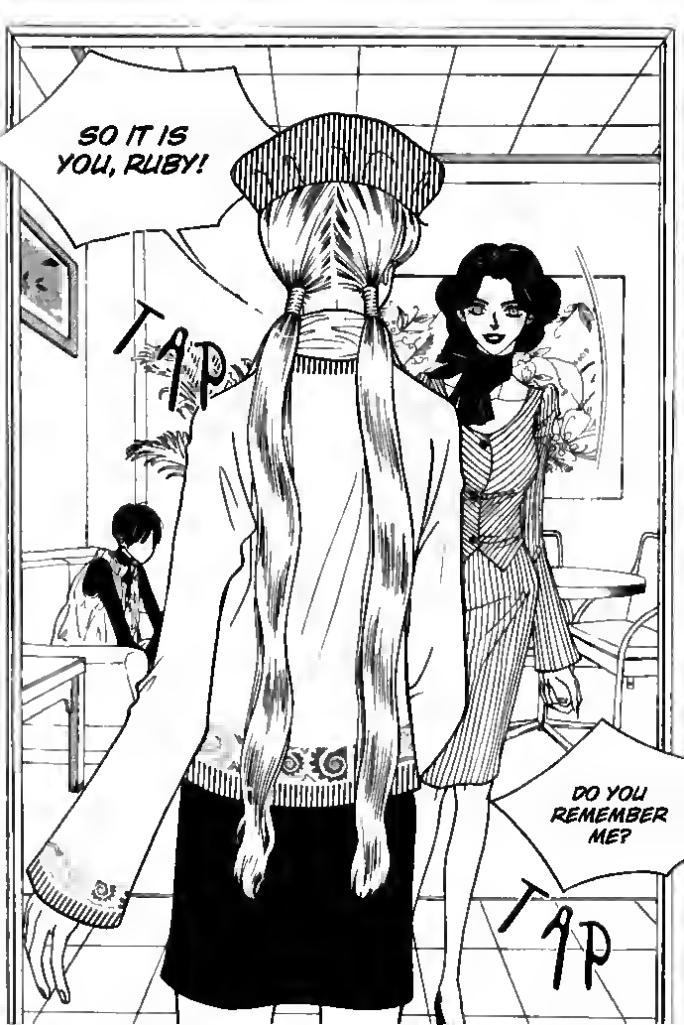
THE CONTEST HASN'T EVEN STARTED YET, WHY DO THEY HAVE TO SIGN UP IN PERSON?
BLAH
BLAH
I'M SORRY BUT THOSE ARE MY INSTRUCTIONS.
SIGN UP
FWIIT
NAME RUBY... AGE 15.
BLONDE, BLUE EYES.
Huh?

ALL RIGHT YOU'RE ALL REGISTERED
SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE, PLEASE USE THE BACK DOOR
RRJJNNGG
HELLO?
AH!

IS THAT SO?
VERY GOOD
I MUST BE LOST!
WHERE'S THE BACK DOOR?
TACK
TAP
TAP

IAN!
RUBY'S HERE.
SHE'LL BE COMING THROUGH THAT DOOR SOON.
CLACK
KUMM

RUBY?


SO IT IS YOU, RUBY!
TAP
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
TAP

MY LEGS ARE FROZEN. I CAN'T MOVE.
SNIFF SNIFF
SEUK
OH MY GOD. YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
POOR RUBY!!
GRAB
IT MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFIFULT, BEING ALL ALONE!

UGH... AAARGH!!!
YOU'RE SUFFOCATING HER.
SHE CAN'T EVEN SPEAK.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT. I DIDN'T EVEN THINK I WAS JUST SO GLAD TO SEE HER!
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha!
About to faint.

DON'T BE SCARED, RUBY.
I USED THE SWEETY GEM TO BRING YOU HERE SO I COULD APOLOGIZE.
I CAUSED YOU TO LOSE EVERYTHING, MY LITTLE PRINCESS. I'VE FELT SO GUILTY ALL THESE YEARS.
SNIFF
SNIFF
I WOULD LOVE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU NOW.
HMPH. SHE WON'T EVEN LET GO OF HER.

HMM, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I'M JEALOUS
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO HOLD RUBY LIKE THAT
THINK OF ME AS YOUR MOTHER.
SHEESH, WHAT AM I THINKING?
EWWW
IF I COULD, I'D LIKE TO ADOPT YOU
HO HO!
YOU MEAN WE'D BE BROTHER AND SISTER?
HUH?
NO! NEVER!

I WOULDN'T WANT A BROTHER LIKE YOU EITHER!!
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN...
IGNORE HIM. HE'S GOT NO MANNERS. You're quite lacking yourself
BAM
MOM!
I... I DON'T KNOW YET...
SO, RUBY. CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?
UM...
THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN...

But...
GNNN
P- please return my sweety Gem.
SEUK
IMPOSSIBLE.
MY COMPANY'S CREDIBILITY IS AT STAKE.
I CAN'T CHANGE THE PRIZE NOW, AFTER I'VE MADE SO MANY ANNOUNCEMENTS.
WHAT'S WRONG, RUBY?
ARE YOU WORRIED THAT YOU WON'T WIN?

YOU WOULD REALLY GIVE UP THE SWEETY GEM WITHOUT A FIGHT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO MEET YOUR PRINCE CHARMING WHO WILL MAKE THE JEWEL GLOW RED?
OOPS!
THAT'S ENOUGH
HOW DO YOU EXPECT HER TO WIN? SHE'S TOO SCARED TO EVEN FINISH THIS INTERVIEW.
WHAT...?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CAN'T DO IT?
IAN, YOU .. YOU'RE REALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I CAN'T EVEN FINISH THIS?
FLIFT

IF I WERE THAT WEAK, I WOULDN'T HAVE COME!
I'VE COME TO TAKE BACK THE SWEETY GEM, AND I'LL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY!
AH... THAT...
YOU STILL HATE ME, DON'T YOU?
I MAY BE NAIVE, BUT EVEN I CAN TELL HOW AWFUL YOU ARE!
I'VE CANCELLED ALL OF MY OTHER APPOINTMENTS TO WAIT FOR YOU. THE RESULTS OF THIS CONTEST DON'T MATTER.
I'VE KEPT THE SWEETY GEM IN MY POCKET SO THAT I COULD RETURN IT TO YOU WHEN MY MOTHER WASN'T LOOKING.

BUT YOU...!!
YOU DON'T APPRECIATE ME AT ALL!
OH YEAH? SO YOU WON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING I TELL YOU?
O- OF COURSE NOT!!
COME NOW, STOP THIS.
ALL YOU TWO DO IS ARGUE!
WE MUST ALL TRY TO GET ALONG... I never thought I would say this.
COME, LET'S GO SHOPPING. IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
NO THANK YOU!!

I'M LEAVING
W- WAIT! I'M GOING FIRST!
SO, RUBY. I ASSUME YOU'LL PARTICIPATE?
YES!
I WILL!
SLAM
BRRRRR

WHEEEEW...
I WAS SO SCARED, I THOUGHT I MIGHT DIE.
COULD CAMILLA REALLY HAVE BECOME NICE?
SHE LEFT ME, GO JUST NOW
CLACK
I WONDER IF I WAS TOO HARD ON IAN HIS FACE BECAME AWFULLY PALE
SURPRISE
BUM
TAP
TAP TAP

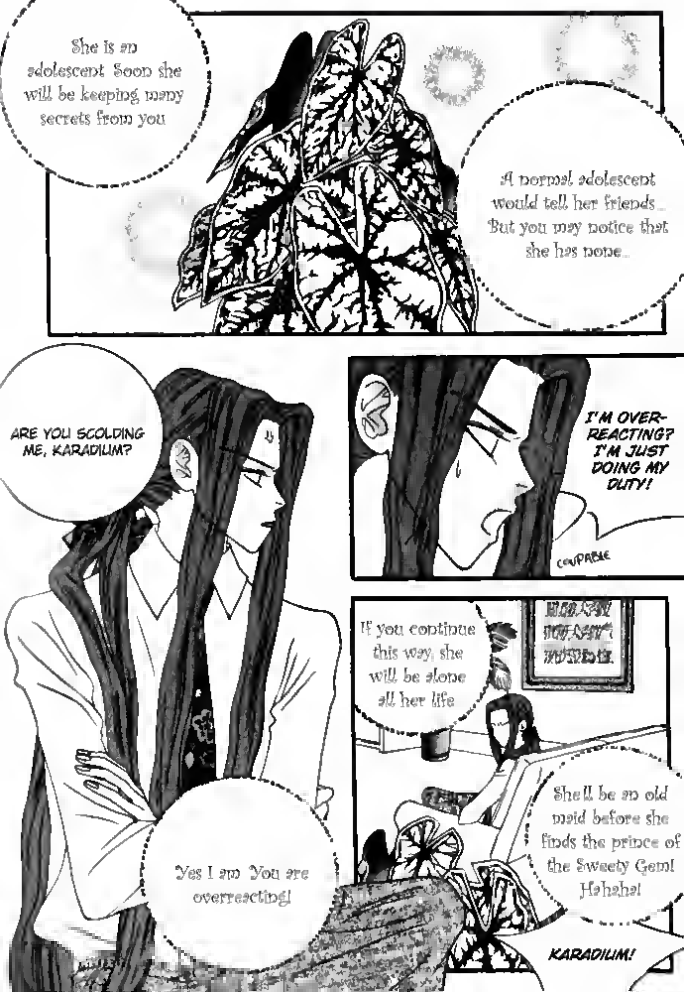
TAP TAP
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HE LOOKS REALLY ANGRY!
TAP
SEUK
I LOVE YOU.

WH-
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
I SAID I LOVE YOU!
BATHMP
..

WH- WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
MY... MY HEART.
BATHUMP
YOU'VE CHANGED.
BATHUMP
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT SO SERIOUS.

THAT WAS A LIE.
I'M A BAD PERSON, SO OF COURSE EVERYTHING I SAY IS A LIE.
FOUHHHH
BUT... THIS GUY...
HE'S UNBELIEVABLE!!
BFFFF
I'M SO ASHAMED THAT MY HEART BEAT FASTER, EVEN FOR THAT SHORT TIME!!

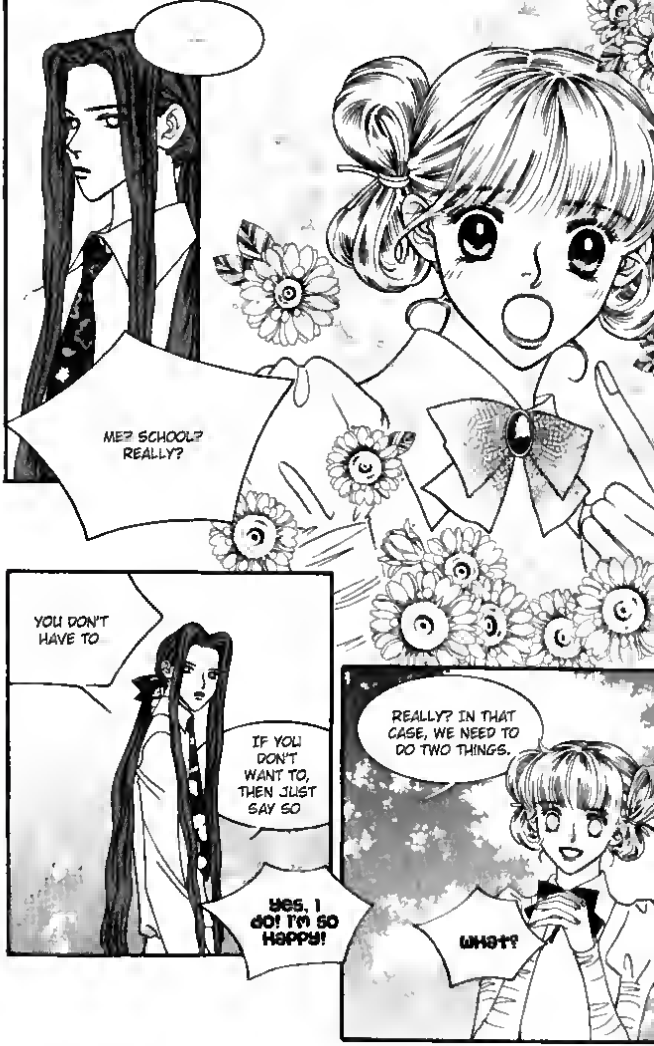
Don't fret, Lord Julien
Camilla is constantly in the public eye
She wouldn't dare do anything to the princess
IT'S NOT JUST CAMILLA I'M CONCERNED ABOUT...
SHE HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY UNRULY AS OF LATE
I NEVER EXPECTED HER TO LEAVE LIKE THAT.


She is an adolescent. Soon she will be keeping many secrets from you
A normal adolescent would tell her friends... But you may notice that she has none...
ARE YOU SCOLDING ME, KARADIUM?
Yes I am. You are overreacting!
I'M OVER-REACTING? I'M JUST DOING MY DUTY!
COMPRESS
If you continue this way, she will be alone all her life
She'll be an old maid before she finds the prince of the Sweety Gem! Hahaha!
KARADIUM!

I'm going to pull you up by your roots!
Yaaarrgh, calm down!
SCHPLONCH
AH... HOW ANNOYING!
PRINCESS..., YOU... YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND.
BRRR
BRRR
YOU SAW CAMILLA?
YES I DID.
AND SHE WAS MORE CIVIL THAN IAN!

IAN?
WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU?
WELL... IAN...
TAP TAPTAP
FRRR
NO...NEVER MIND! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! I'M GOING TO BED!
BRO
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
UAAAM

BOOM
BOOM
You see?
YES. FRIENDS...
SHE NEEDS FRIENDS...
BUT WHERE TO FIND THEM?
WHERE CAN A GIRL LIKE THE PRINCESS FIND FRIENDS?
Hmm... There is a place where there are lots of children. And she'll be relatively safe from Camilla.
Plus she can learn many things there.


ME? SCHOOL? REALLY?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, THEN JUST SAY SO
YES, I DO! I'M SO HAPPY!
REALLY? IN THAT CASE, WE NEED TO DO TWO THINGS.
WHAT?

FIRST OF ALL, THERE ARE NO SCHOOLS NEAR HERE WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE SO THAT YOU WON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN A DORMITORY.
SECOND, SINCE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO SCHOOL BEFORE, YOU'LL NEED TO PASS AN ENTRANCE EXAM.
Exam? How can I do that?
That's too cruel
I'LL HELP YOU.
FINALLY, SINCE YOU ARE A PRINCESS, WE MUST FIND YOU A VERY GOOD SCHOOL.
WE HAVE SOME TIME BEFORE THE PRINCESS DOLL CONTEST BEGINS, SO LET'S WORK ON GETTING YOU INTO A SCHOOL

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND, JEFFREY.

YOUR GRADES ARE MOSTLY GOOD, BUT YOUR GRADE IN HISTORY IS ABYSMAL.
CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY?
IT DOESN'T INTEREST ME.
I CAN'T STAND BORING THINGS.
Wha... what?
History Teacher

WHEN I'M INTERESTED IN SOMETHING
I GO ALL THE WAY
HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW GIRL WHO STARTED TODAY?
BLABLA BLABLA
OH, THE ONE WHO JUST TOOK THE EXAM? SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.
PRETTIER THAN CLARA?
UM... DUNNO.
Hey, there she is! over there!

CLARA...?
WHO? THE ONE STANDING?
NO, THE ONE SITTING ON THE BENCH, TO THE RIGHT.
HER NAME IS RUBY, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. .

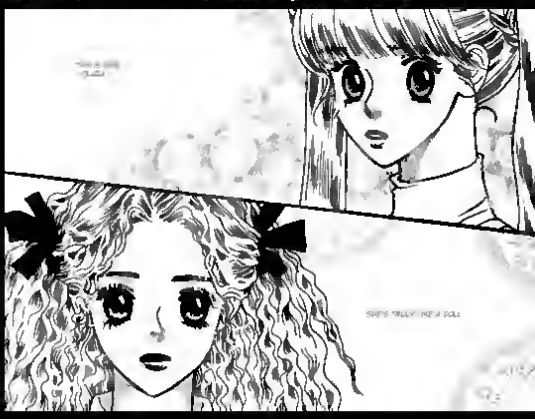
VS
PROM
8
JULIAN
IAN KNIGHT

Chapter 07 Preview

Ian's rival has finally appeared!

And unlike Ian, he wastes no time trying to get Ruby's attention.

Meanwhile, Ian can't stop thinking about Ruby.



But Ian's not the only one with competition...

Rivalry is in full Bloom...!!

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Sweety Gein Volume 02

-Credits-

EUROPE REACHED A TURNING POINT AFTER THE CONQUEST OF GERMANY AND THE COLLAPSE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
THIS MAKES ME SLEEPY. I'M NOT MADE FOR WORK.
YAWN
BUT ALL OF THE OTHER STUDENTS AT THIS SCHOOL ARE VERY SERIOUS.
HUH?

ZZZ
HE'S TWIRLING HIS PENCIL..
HE. HE'S ASLEEP!?
SPIN
WHOAAA, HE'S AMAZING!!
RUBY, HAVE YOU BEEN STUDYING ANYTHING OTHER THAN JEFFREY SINCE YOU ARRIVED?
HA
HA
HA
SOON ENOUGH YOU TWO WILL BE REPEATING THIS CLASS AS A COUPLE.

...!
HEY, THIS SUBJECT IS REALLY ANNOYING, DON'T YOU AGREE?
I LIKE POLITICAL SCIENCE. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
LUNCH BREAK...
Very
serious.
...
HMM... I LIKE...
...

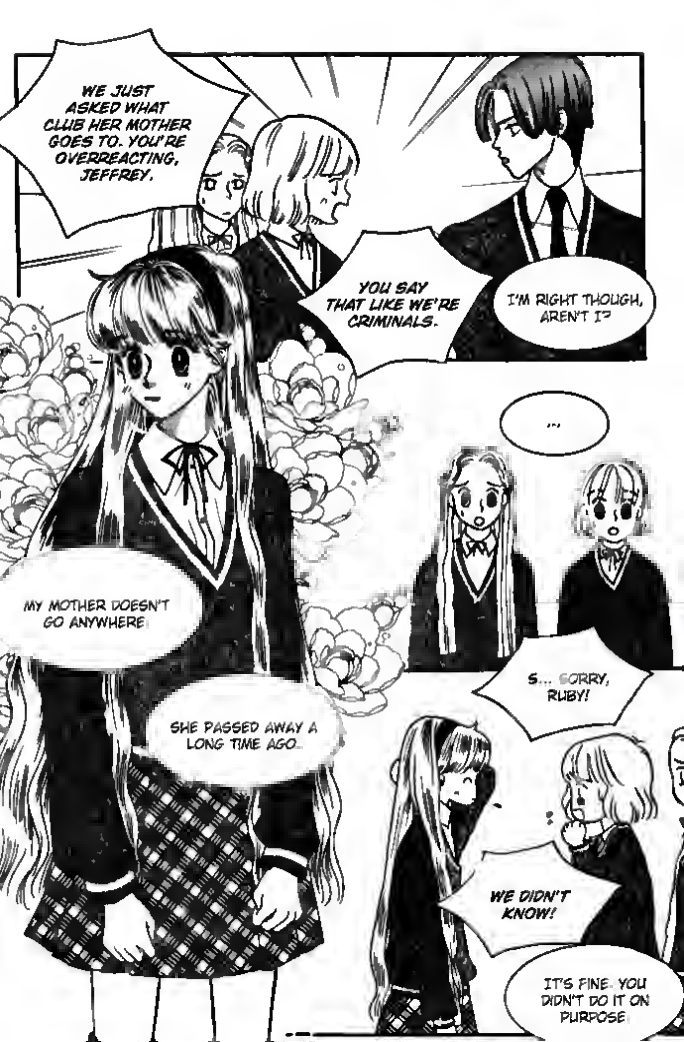
DING
DONG
DID I SAY SOMETHING STUPID?
BLAH
WHOA! RUBY, WHAT WAS IT LIKE? SPEAKING WITH JEFFREY?
DON'T YOU THINK HE'S GREAT?
THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S PERFECT. HE'S GORGEOUS AND HE COMES FROM A GOOD FAMILY
BLAH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
REALLY?

IS THIS SEAT FREE?
MAY I?
Huh? If you want to
AH... I HAVEN'T EATEN MUCH, BUT I'M ALREADY FULL
ME TOO I CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER BITE
HOW CAN THEY BE FULL AFTER EATING SO LITTLE?
THE STUDENTS AT THIS SCHOOL MUST HAVE VERY SMALL STOMACHS. HOW STRANGE.
OH, RUBY. YOU HAVE SOMETHING ON YOUR FACE.
YOU EAT LIKE A PIGLET, MY DEAR
HUH? HERE?
NO, NO
STRAWBERRY
ORANGE
WATERMELON
APPLE
TURN THIS WAY. LET ME SEE

IT'S HERE.
THANKS.
ARGH !
IT'S NOT RIGHT TO WASTE FOOD
Lick
...
BLAH BLAH
WRITE
MY MOTHER WENT TO A COUNTRY CLUB THE OTHER DAY.
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
MADAM TAYLOR IS ALSO PART OF THE CLUB.
YOUR PARENTS MUST HAVE ALSO BEEN THERE JEFFREY.
AH, REALLY?

SAY, RUBY? WHAT CLUB DOES YOUR MOTHER GO TO?TO?
MY... MOTHER?

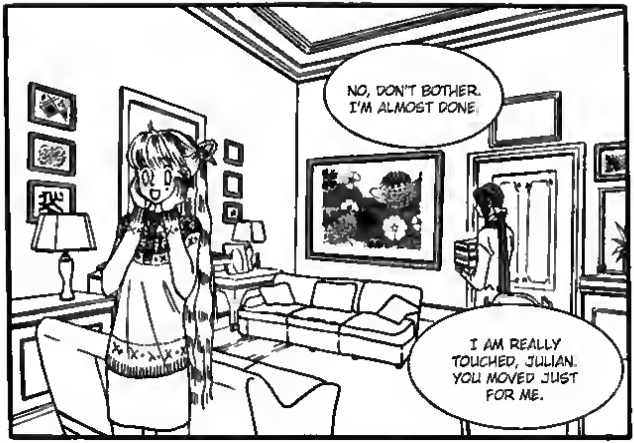
I'VE ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING BACK THE SWEETY GEM
I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT HER.
MY MOTHER...
PFFF, GIRLS. WHEN ANOTHER GIRL IS PRETTIER THAN THEM...
THEY START PLOTTING
HEY, BUT WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!!


WE JUST ASKED WHAT CLUB HER MOTHER GOES TO. YOU'RE OVERREACTING, JEFFREY.
I'M RIGHT THOUGH, AREN'T I?
YOU SAY THAT LIKE WE'RE CRIMINALS.
...
MY MOTHER DOESN'T GO ANYWHERE.
SHE PASSED AWAY A LONG TIME AGO.
S... SORRY, RUBY!
WE DIDN'T KNOW!
IT'S FINE. YOU DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE.

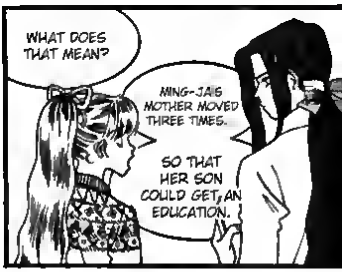
BUT LISTEN DON'T BE TOO SHOCKED. I'M ACTUALLY..
A PRINCESS
RUBY... DON'T JOKE ABOUT SUCH THINGS.
BUT... IT'S TRUE...
SOMETIMES HE'S A LITTLE WEIRD
CLARA?
HE'S NOTHING LIKE CLARA.

SHE'S JEFFREY'S SISTER.
SHE NEVER COMES TO SCHOOL ANYMORE, BECAUSE SHE'S ILL .
SHE'S REALLY LIKE A DOLL.
EVERYONE WHO MEETS HER LOVES HER.

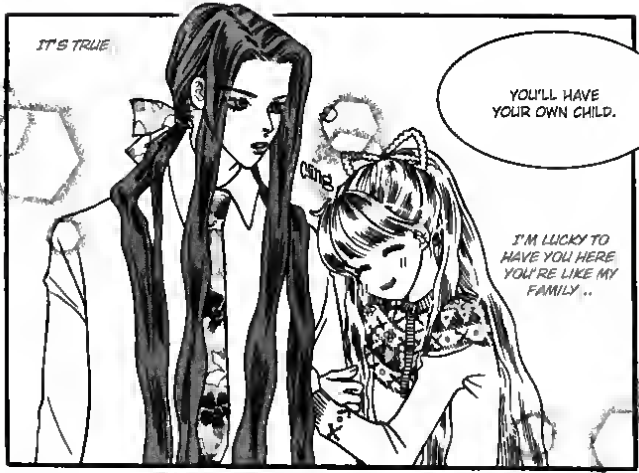
Are you still tidying up, Julian?
Do you want me to help you out with anything?


NO, DON'T BOTHER. I'M ALMOST DONE.
I AM REALLY TOUCHED, JULIAN. YOU MOVED JUST FOR ME.

THERE'S A CHINESE PROVERB THAT SAYS...
MING-JA'S MOTHER MOVED THREE TIMES


WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
MING-JA'S MOTHER MOVED THREE TIMES.
SO THAT HER SON COULD GET AN EDUCATION.

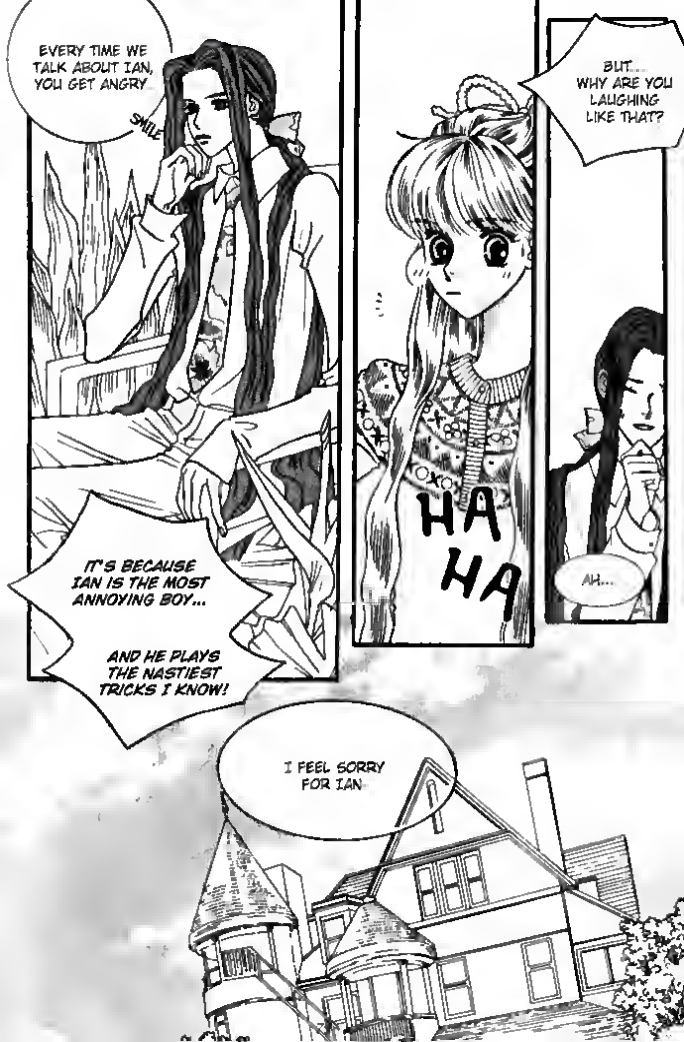
DOES THAT MAKE YOU MY MOTHER?
SNIFF
YOU DIDN'T GET THE POINT AT ALL.


IT'S TRUE
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR OWN CHILD.
CHRIS
I'M LUCKY TO HAVE YOU HERE YOU'RE LIKE MY FAMILY ..

WELL, HAVE YOU MADE ANY FRIENDS?
YES. ANNE, MINA AND JEFFREY ..

JEFFREY? ISN'T THAT A BOY'S NAME?
HE CAN TWIRL A PENCIL IN HIS FINGERS WHILE HE'S SLEEPING

HMM. JEFFREY...
WHAT IS HE LIKE?
ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN. JEFFREY IS A HUNDRED TIMES NICER THAN IAN.
TODAY AT LUNCH, I HAD CRUMBS ALL OVER MY FACE AND JEFFREY BRUSHED THEM OFF FOR ME.
IAN WOULD HAVE MADE FUN OF ME.
COMPARED TO IAN?
SPLAAASH
WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT IAN AGAIN?
I... I HARDLY KNOW HIM.
STANDS


EVERY TIME WE TALK ABOUT IAN, YOU GET ANGRY
SMILE
IT'S BECAUSE IAN IS THE MOST ANNOYING BOY...
AND HE PLAYS THE NASTIEST TRICKS I KNOW!
HA HA
BUT... WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING LIKE THAT?
AH...
I FEEL SORRY FOR IAN

CLICK!
My ears are burning.
ALWAYS

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

IAN, ARE YOU FINISHED WITH YOUR PHOTO SHOOT?

CAN WE SPEAK WITH YOU FOR A BIT?

WHO'S THE OLD LADY?

O... OLD LADY?

HERE, IAN

THIS IS MISS DANIELLE, THE LEAD DESIGNER AT MORRIS, THE WORLD RENOWNED BRAND.

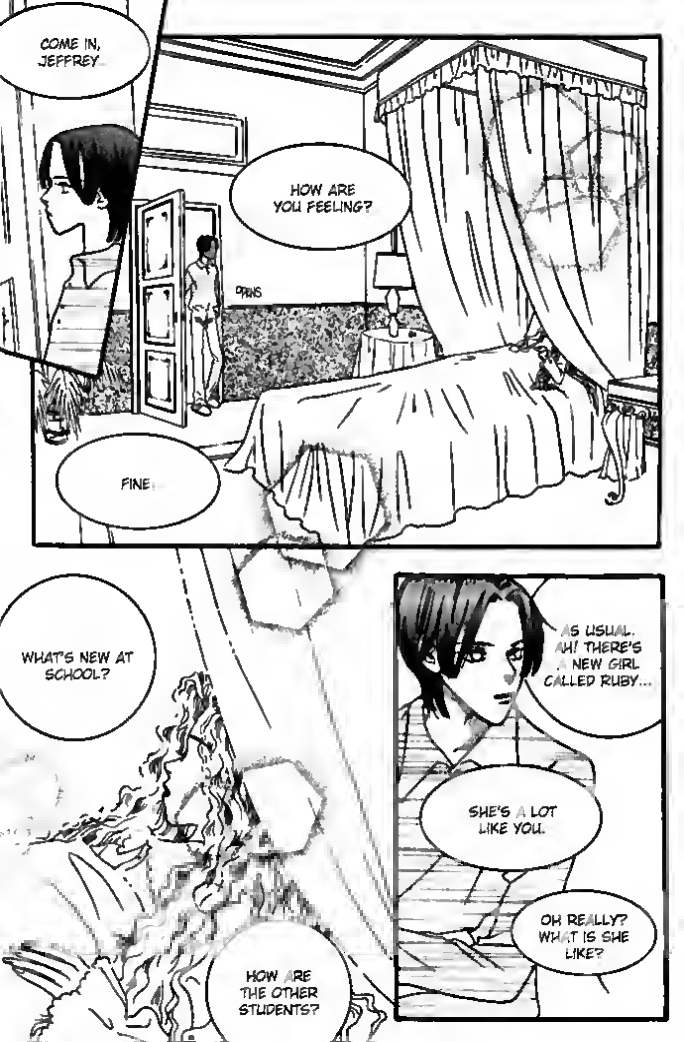
HELLO, IAN.

ACTUALLY...

I'D LOVE ..
FOR YOU TO WEAR THE CLOTHES I DESIGN
WOULD YOU MODEL MY WORK IN THE WINTER COLLECTION?
...
ALL RIGHT. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT
CLASP
THANK YOU, IAN!
I'M SURE IT WILL BE AMAZING.
SHALL WE TAKE YOUR MEASUREMENTS NOW?
NO! HANDS OFF!

TOMORROW AT 2PM, YOU HAVE A PHOTO SHOOT FOR THE ONYX CATALOGUE.
THE DAY AFTER YOU HAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH VOGUE AND ESQUIRE. AND THE DAY AFTER THAT...
..
I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE OVERWORKING YOURSELF LATELY.
PLUS, YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK BEFORE YOU ACCEPTED THAT LADY'S REQUEST.
IT'S EASIER IF I AM BUSY

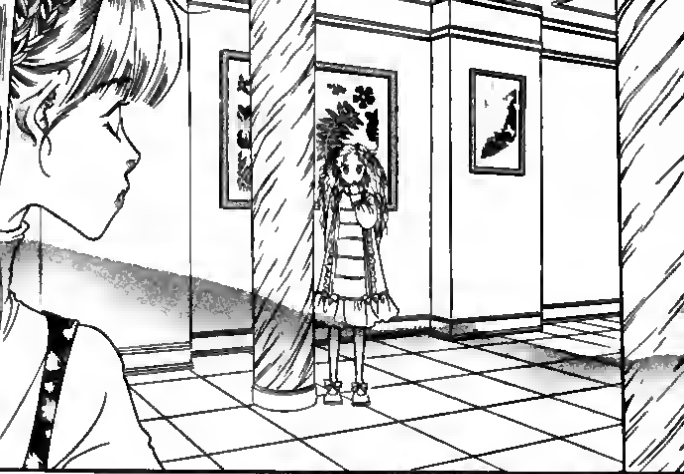
INTERVIEWS FOR THE PRINCESS DOLL CONTEST WILL BEGIN SOON.
SHE WILL DEFINITELY LOOK REALLY PRETTY FOR THE INTERVIEW.
YES SHE WILL BE BEAUTIFUL.
BL
USH
DAMN. IT'S NOT FAIR.
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GETTING WORKED UP OVER THIS?
SHOCK
CLARA, ARE YOU ASLEEP?
TOK TOK


COME IN, JEFFREY.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
PRNS
FINE.
AS USUAL. AH! THERE'S A NEW GIRL CALLED RUBY...
SHE'S A LOT LIKE YOU.
OH REALLY? WHAT IS SHE LIKE?
WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL?
HOW ARE THE OTHER STUDENTS?

I REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT THAT GIRL IS LIKE...
I'D LIKE TO MEET HER.
SHE'S VERY CHEERFUL AND SHE SEEMS HONEST. NOT FALSE AT ALL.
IT SEEMS SHE'S MADE A FEW FRIENDS.
JEFFREY, HOW ABOUT INVITING HER OVER FOR DINNER THIS WEEKEND?

DINNER? I PLANNED TO EAT WITH JULIAN...
HE CAN ALSO COME
I'M BEGGING YOU. I DON'T WANT TO UPSET CLARA
WHAT ABOUT US...?
SORRY. SHE DIDN'T MENTION YOU
HOW MEAN!
I NEED TO CONVINCE JULIAN!
CLARA...

I don't even eat blah blah.
WELCOME IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, JULIAN
THIS WAY.



THIS IS HER, CLARA.

SHE'S TRULY LIKE A DOLL...

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Sweety Gem Volume 02

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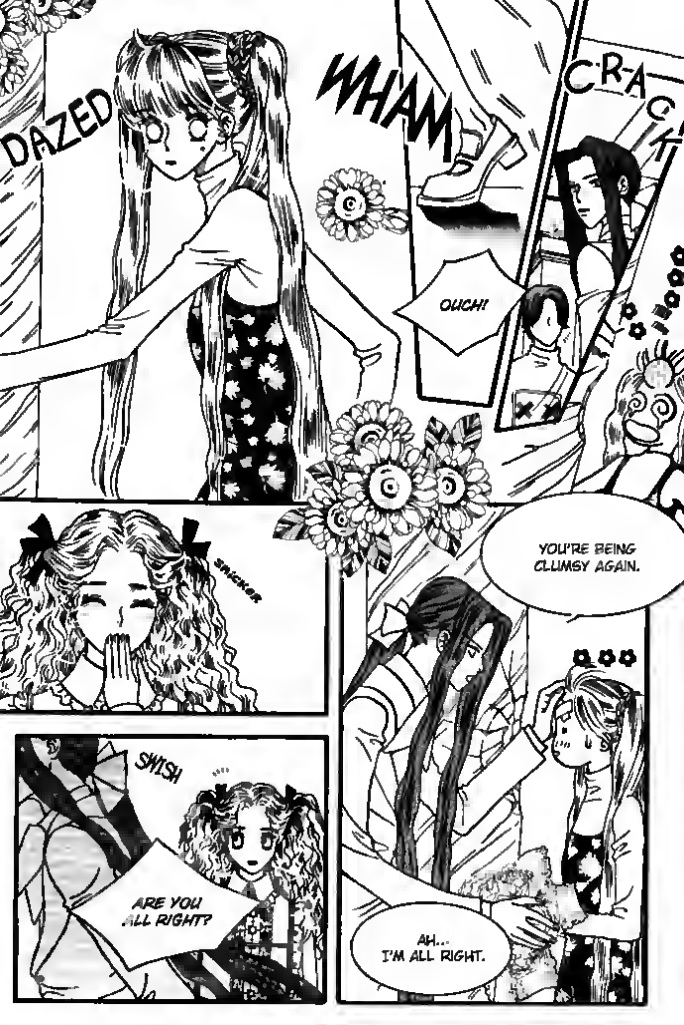
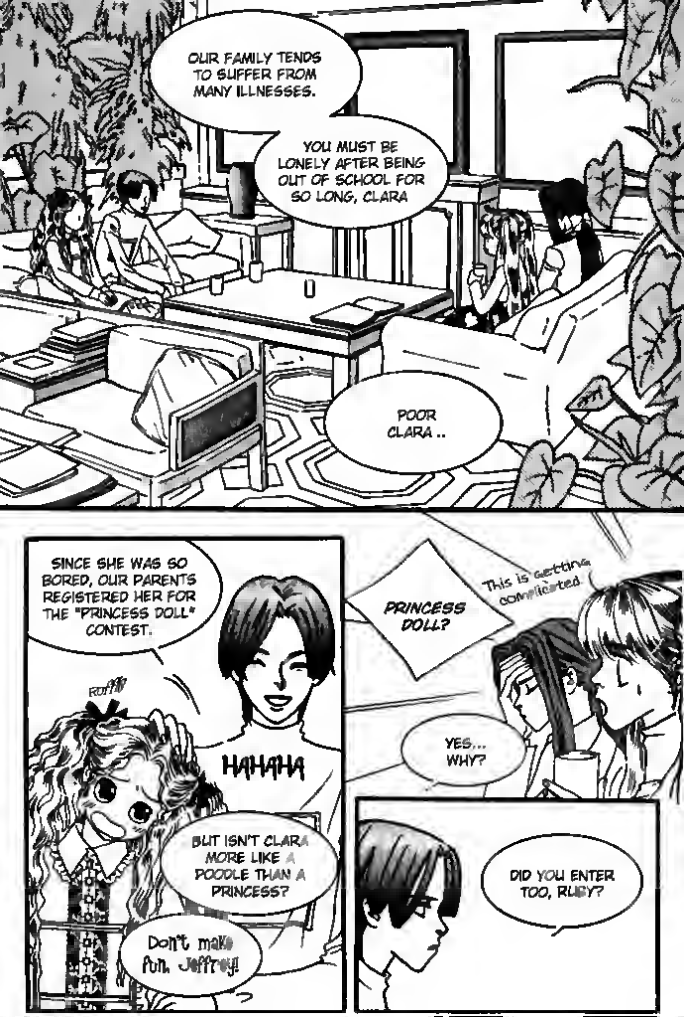
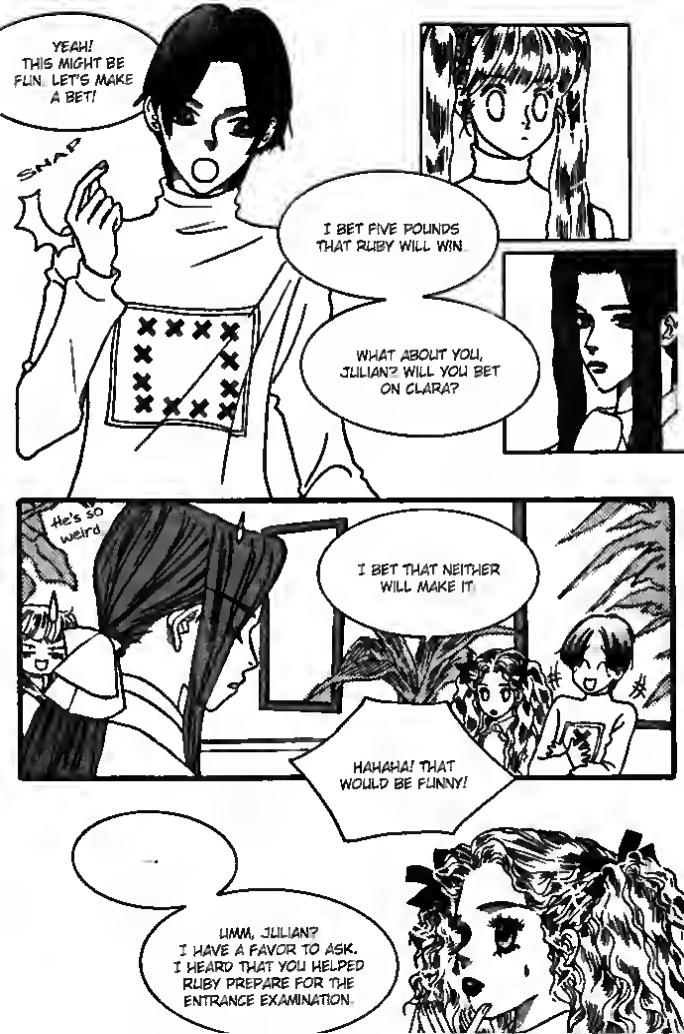
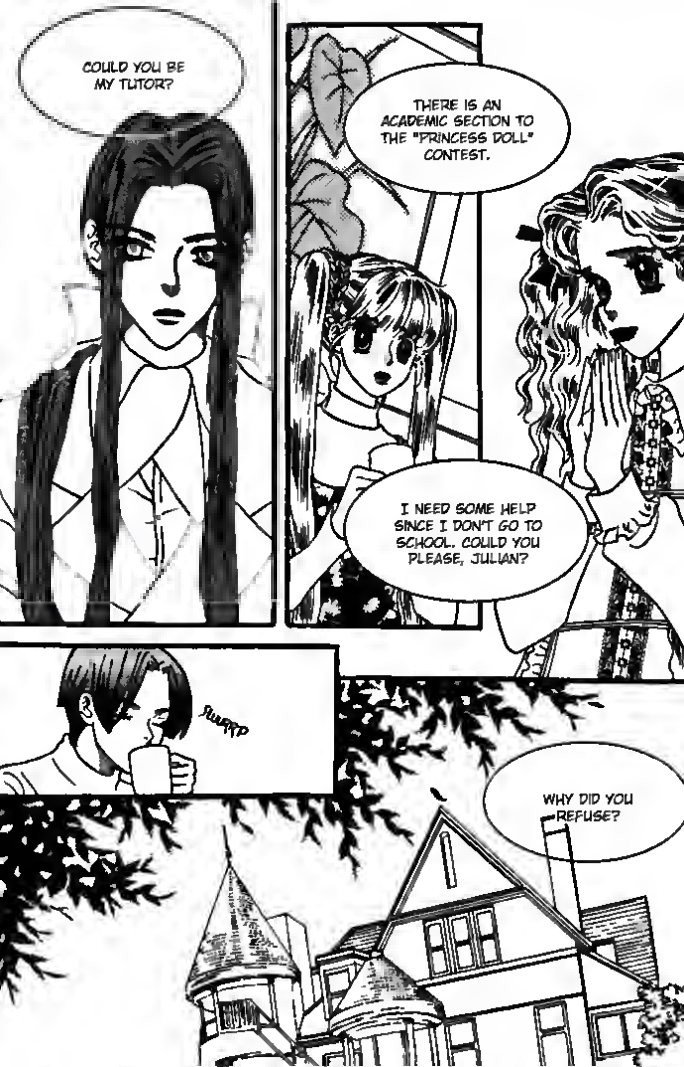

DAZED
WHAM
C-R-A-C-K
OUCH!
SNICKER
YOU'RE BEING CLUMSY AGAIN.
SWISH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AH... I'M ALL RIGHT.

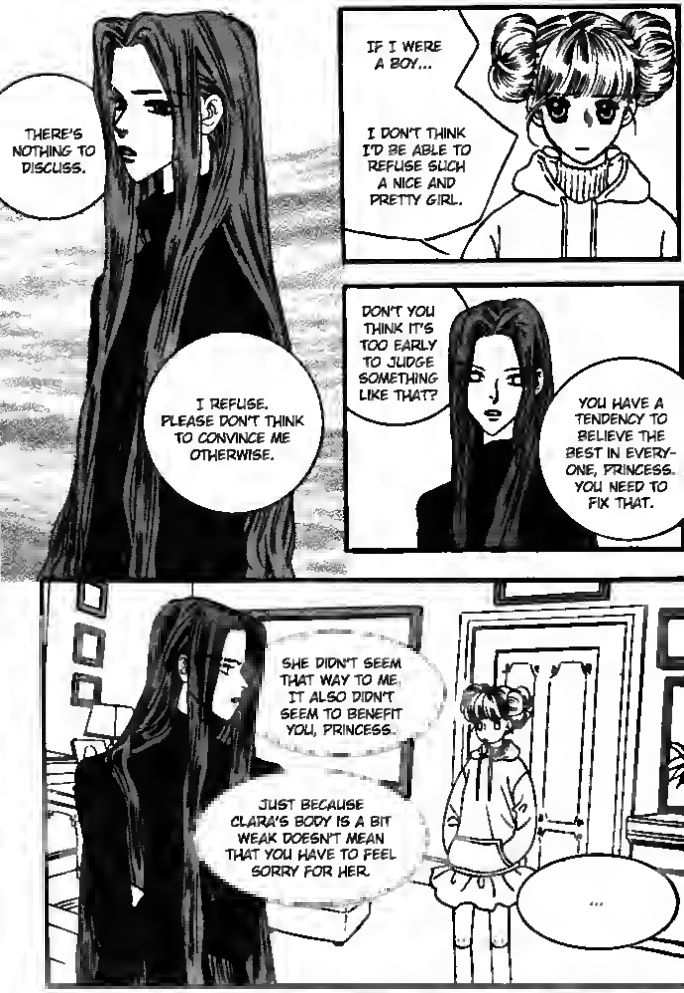
OH NO
I SQUISHED THE
FLOWERS.
IS THAT WHAT
YOU'RE CONCERNED
ABOUT? TSK...
...
I'M SORRY, CLARA.
WHAT SHOULD I
DO? THE FLOWERS
ARE RUINED...
NO,
THEY'RE
VERY PRETTY.
THANK YOU,
RUBY.


OUR FAMILY TENDS TO SUFFER FROM MANY ILLNESSES.
YOU MUST BE LONELY AFTER BEING OUT OF SCHOOL FOR SO LONG, CLARA
POOR CLARA ..
SINCE SHE WAS SO BORED, OUR PARENTS REGISTERED HER FOR THE "PRINCESS DOLL" CONTEST.
RUFF!!!
HAHAHA
BUT ISN'T CLARA MORE LIKE A POODLE THAN A PRINCESS?
Don't make fun, Jeffrey!
PRINCESS DOLL?
This is getting complicated
YES... WHY?
DID YOU ENTER TOO, RUBY?

AH... YES.
THERE WAS A SITUATION...
...
REALLY? MINE'S ON SATURDAY.
HOW COULD SHE BE SO NICE AND PRETTY.
WELL, LET'S TRY OUR BEST. I HOPE WE WILL BE THE TOP CONTESTANTS.
smile
MY INTERVIEW IS NEXT MONDAY. WHEN'S YOURS?

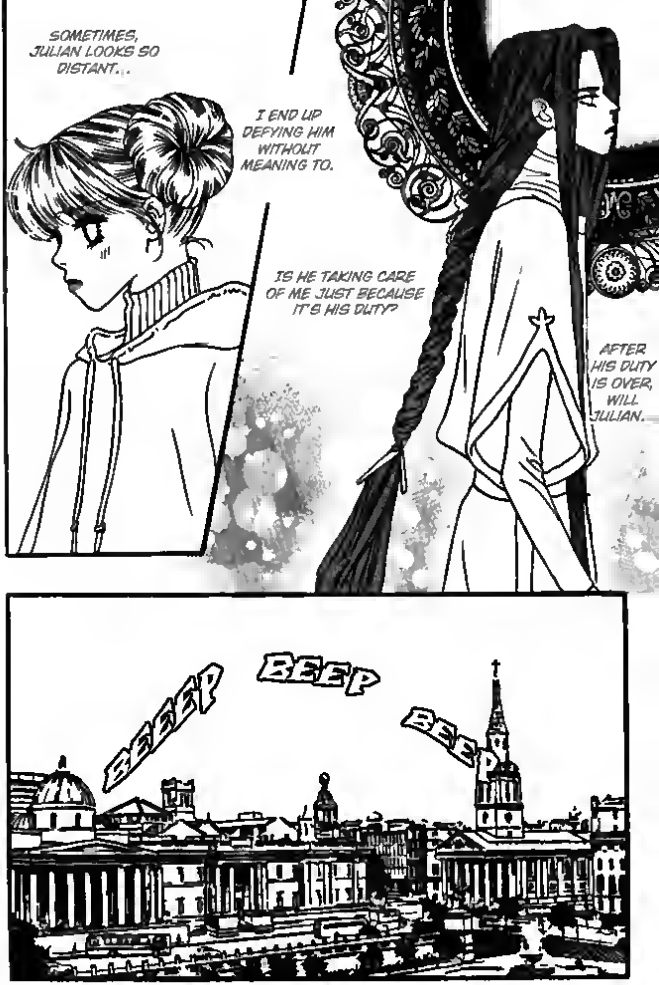

YEAH! THIS MIGHT BE FUN. LET'S MAKE A BET!
SNAP
I BET FIVE POUNDS THAT RUBY WILL WIN.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, JULIAN? WILL YOU BET ON CLARA?
He's so weird
I BET THAT NEITHER WILL MAKE IT.
HAHAHA! THAT WOULD BE FUNNY!
UMM, JULIAN? I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK. I HEARD THAT YOU HELPED RUBY PREPARE FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.


COULD YOU BE MY TUTOR?
THERE IS AN ACADEMIC SECTION TO THE "PRINCESS DOLL" CONTEST.
I NEED SOME HELP SINCE I DON'T GO TO SCHOOL. COULD YOU PLEASE, JULIAN?
SLURRP
WHY DID YOU REFUSE?


IF I WERE A BOY...
I DON'T THINK I'D BE ABLE TO REFUSE SUCH A NICE AND PRETTY GIRL.
THERE'S NOTHING TO DISCUSS.
I REFUSE. PLEASE DON'T THINK TO CONVINCE ME OTHERWISE.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TOO EARLY TO JUDGE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
YOU HAVE A TENDENCY TO BELIEVE THE BEST IN EVERY-ONE, PRINCESS. YOU NEED TO FIX THAT.
SHE DIDN'T SEEM THAT WAY TO ME. IT ALSO DIDN'T SEEM TO BENEFIT YOU, PRINCESS.
JUST BECAUSE CLARA'S BODY IS A BIT WEAK DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU HAVE TO FEEL SORRY FOR HER.
...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, JULIAN?
SOMETIMES, JULIAN—
STOP BEING SO SCHEMING WITH PEOPLE AND ONLY MAKING FRIENDS WHEN YOU NEED THEM!
DO YOU THROW THEM AWAY JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T NEED THEM?
DO YOU THINK ABOUT EVERY-ONE THAT WAY, JULIAN?
I WANT YOU TO HELP CLARA ANY WAY YOU CAN.
THIS IS AN ORDER

...
I SEE
SLAM
RUSH PAST
I WILL DO AS HER MAJESTY COMMANDS.
I UNDERSTAND.


SOMETIMES, JULIAN LOOKS SO DISTANT...
I END UP DEFYING HIM WITHOUT MEANING TO.
IS HE TAKING CARE OF ME JUST BECAUSE IT'S HIS DUTY?
AFTER HIS DUTY IS OVER, WILL JULIAN...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

TUUT
THE TRAFFIC LOOKS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.
IS IT BECAUSE OF THE INTERVIEWS?
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT, RUBY.
CLARA DID FINE. NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
THEY ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS AND THEN ASK YOU TO POSE. THAT'S ALL.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING
P- pose?
WOULD IT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF JULIAN HAD COME ALONG?
AH! I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED SINCE CLARA IS STARTING HER LESSONS TODAY
BUT .. THE TRAFFIC IS REALLY BAD. I WONDER IF WE'LL MAKE IT IN TIME.
ARGH! STUCK ON THE LIGHT AGAIN!

SCREECH
DAMN...
I GET STUCK AT
EVERY LIGHT.
E767
VGN

WHAT IS SHE STILL DOING HERE?
THUMP
H- HUH? IS THAT RUBY!?
W- WHO'S THAT GIRLIE LOOKING GUY?
BANG

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING CRAWLING IN THIS CAR!?
HAVE YOU GIVEN UP ON THE INTERVIEW ALREADY? GET OUT! I'LL TAKE YOU THERE!
I...I N!?
IAN?
Not.. the model Ian?
What's wrong with the Ian? You can't even imagine how much it costs!
WHERE WERE YOU GOING?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET OUT!
I... I HAD SOME BUSINESS TO DO AROUND HERE..
I'LL DIE BEFORE I ADMIT TO HER THAT I RAN OUT FROM WORK TO SEE HER INTERVIEW!

I HATE TO ACCEPT HELP FROM IAN, BUT...
I'M SORRY, JEFFREY. I'LL GO ON AHEAD.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, RUBY. STAY CALM AND YOU'LL DO WELL.
I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU SOON.

HOLD ON TIGHT, UNLESS YOU WANT TO DIE!
VROOOOM
SURPRISE
AH!
WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE?
VROOOOM
I'LL BEAR IT SINCE IT'S JUST FOR TODAY.

HMM...
WHAT IS IT, HONEY?

I LEFT EVERY-THING ABOUT THE "PRINCESS DOLL" CONTEST UP TO YOU BECAUSE YOU WANTED IT SO MUCH, BUT...
I NOTICED SOME STRANGE THINGS

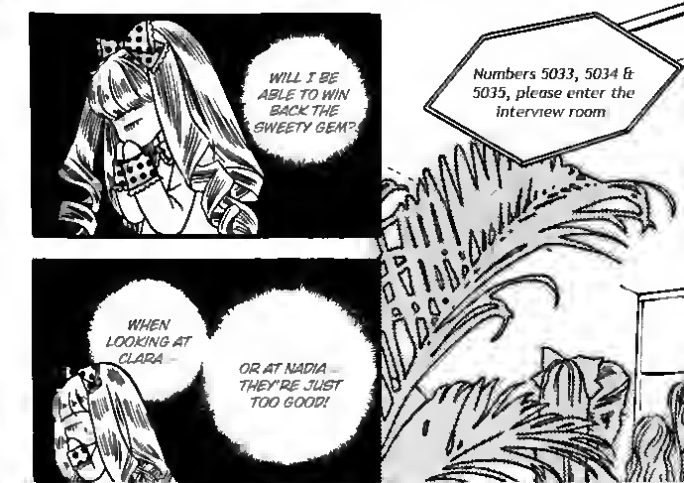
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A JEWEL CALLED SWEETY GEM.
YOU'VE ALREADY SECURED THIS GEM, RIGHT?
AH! YES OF COURSE

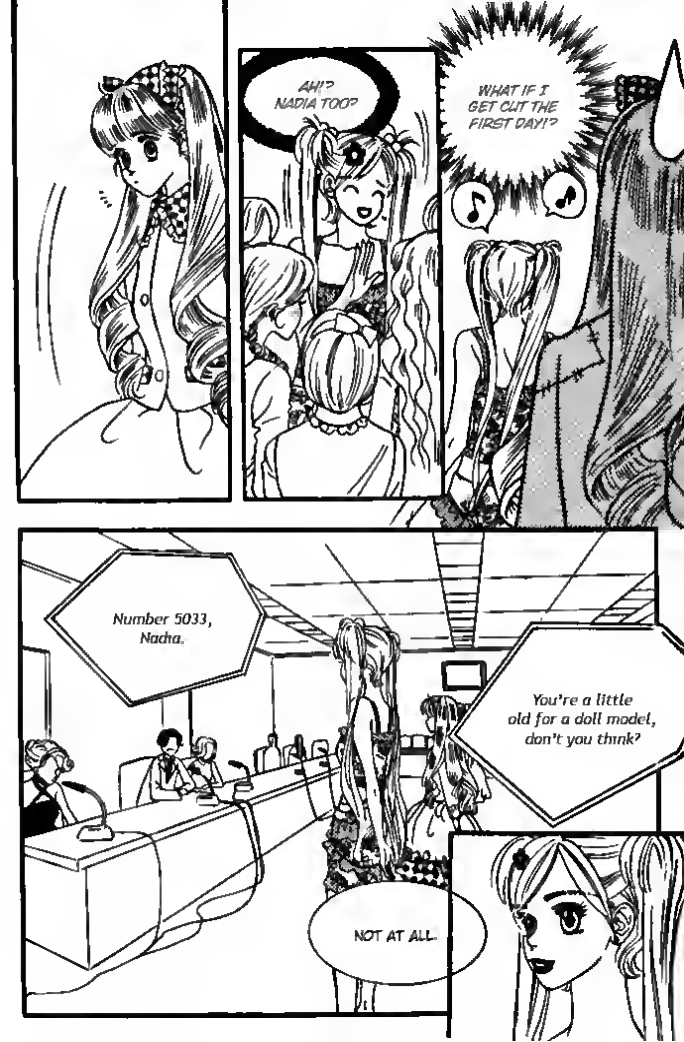
HMM.. THEN LET'S HAVE AN OPEN EXHIBITION TO INCREASE ADVERTISEMENT.
UH... UH-OH!
WE'VE ARRIVED.
SCREECH
THE MAIN ENTRANCE IS THAT WAY.
OKAY.
RUNNING
SHE'S GOING TO BE OUT OF BREATH IS SHE KEEPS RUNNING LIKE THAT. SHE'S STILL SO NERVOUS.

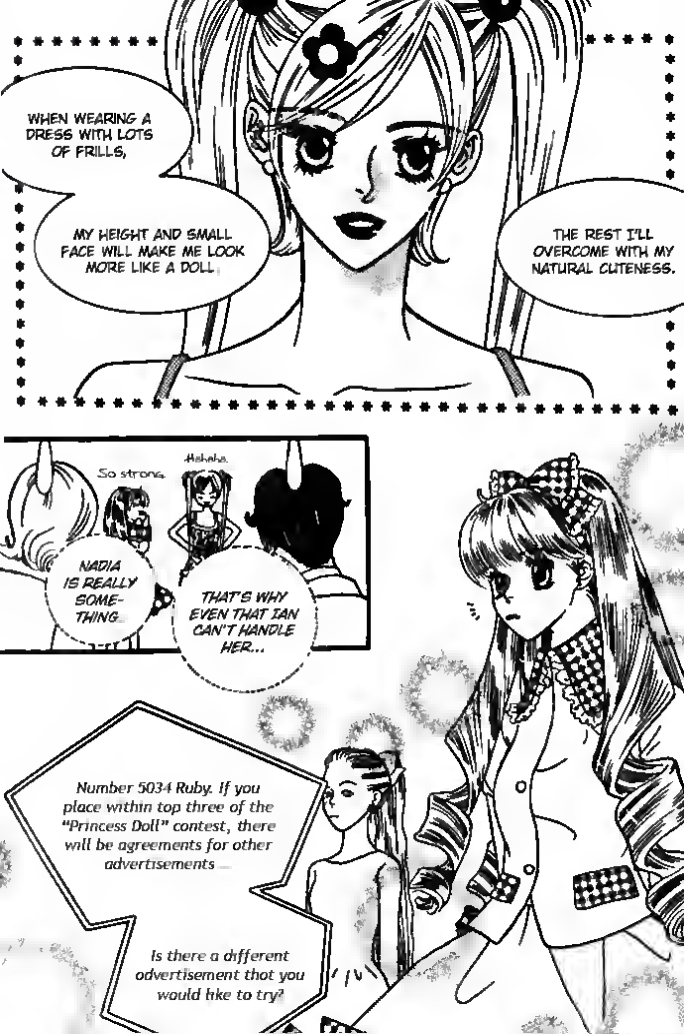
HEY! RUN SLOWER!!
YOUR PANTIES ARE SHOWING!!
YOU...!
SINCE YOU'RE GOING FOR IT, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO FOR FIRST PLACE!
RUNS
FLIPS

Your attention please. Contestants, please listen to this announcement and enter in order
If you have finished your interview, please return home since our waiting room is crowded
AH... I'M SO NERVOUS
I'VE HEARD THAT THOSE WHO'VE ALREADY HAD THEIR INTERVIEWS DID REALLY WELL.
THERE'VE BEEN DROP OUTS ALREADY.
OH! LOOK OVER THERE.
IT'S NADIA.
AMAZING. THERE'S A LINE FOR AUTOGRAPHS EVEN HERE.
SHE REALLY LOOKS LIKE A DOLL NOW THAT SHE'S DYED HER HAIR PINK.

NADIA'S SO PRETTY IN REAL LIFE!
SHE LOOKS SO CONFIDENT TAN SAID HE HAD BUSINESS
DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH NADIA?


WILL I BE ABLE TO WIN BACK THE SWEETY GEM?
Numbers 5033, 5034 & 5035, please enter the interview room
WHEN LOOKING AT CLARA...
OR AT NADIA... THEY'RE JUST TOO GOOD!


AH!? NADIA TOO?
WHAT IF I GET CUT THE FIRST DAY!?
Number 5033, Nadia.
You're a little old for a doll model, don't you think?
NOT AT ALL.


WHEN WEARING A DRESS WITH LOTS OF FRILLS,
MY HEIGHT AND SMALL FACE WILL MAKE ME LOOK MORE LIKE A DOLL.
THE REST I'LL OVERCOME WITH MY NATURAL CUTENESS.
So strong.
Hahaha.
NADIA IS REALLY SOME-THING...
THAT'S WHY EVEN THAT IAN CAN'T HANDLE HER...
Number 5034 Ruby. If you place within top three of the "Princess Doll" contest, there will be agreements for other advertisements —
Is there a different advertisement that you would like to try?

I'M FINE WITH ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE EATING APPLES!
APPLE
APPLE
APPLE
Do... Do you not like apples?
NO. I LIKE APPLES. THEY'RE TASTY.
FROZEN ATMOSPHERE
Finally!
Hold the pose that you are most comfortable with for the camera!

Shine

IS 5034 HOLDING A POSE?
I... DON'T KNOW.

NICE TIMING
CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE WAITING ROOM IS?
IT'S ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THIS BUILDING.
THE ELEVATOR IS BROKEN SO YOU'LL HAVE TO USE THE WEST STAIRS.
THANKS. YOU'RE NICER THAN YOU LOOK...
NICE? YEAH RIGHT
PFF

HEY!
JEFFREY!
I'M NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO FALL FOR THAT.
I TOLD YOU TO GO THAT WAY!!
OH! HERE SHE IS.
HOW WAS IT, RUBY? DO YOU THINK YOU DID WELL?
OH... I DON'T KNOW. EVERYTHING WENT BY SO QUICKLY.

YOUR FACE IS AS UNPLEASANT AS IF A VAMPIRE SUCKED OUT ALL OF YOUR BLOOD

IF THE DEVIL HAD A SON HE WOULD LOOK LIKE YOU

Oh my god! It seems to be true.
Is Jeffrey a psycho or does Ian really look the part?
You're too smart
Ooh?

BUZZ
TAP TAP TAP
IAN!
GRAB
IAN!! YOU CAME TO SEE ME!!

ARGH! GET AWAY FROM ME!
Ru...Ruby!!
This is a misunderstanding! A misunderstanding!
A MISUNDERSTANDING?
Turn!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING EXCUSES TO THAT GIRL?
WHO IS SHE?

YOU'RE RUBY? YOU LOOKE AS IF YOU'RE CRAWLING ON THE FLOOR
Crunch
AREN'T YOU THAT GIRL WHO SAID ALL THAT WEIRD STUFF BACK THERE?
HOW DO YOU KNOW IAN?
NADIA, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU SO BUG OFF!
HEY
LET'S INTRODUCE OURSELVES
I'M JEFFREY SHORE, A SCHOOL FRIEND OF RUBY'S

COLD
WIND
I DON'T CARE IF YOUR NAME IS JEFFREY OR DEFFERY!
I... IAN!
WELL, DO AS YOU LIKE. I ALREADY KNOW WHO YOU ARE,
IAN KNIGHT.
QUIT SMIRKING! IT'S ANNOYING!
HE'S HAPPY TO KNOW HE'S ANNOYING
SHORE? AS IN THE SHORE?
HUH? YOU KNOW HIM?

OF COURSE! THEY'RE FAMOUS FOR MINING!
MINING?
MINING COAL?
WELL, THERE'S THAT. HOWEVER..
WE PRIMARILY MINE GEMS.
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL PUTTING A PEARL NECKLACE AROUND A PIG'S NECK.
MAKING
FUN
...
YOU SEEM TO REALLY HATE ME.
IAN!
DID YOU FINALLY NOTICE? ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING?
IAN!

WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS?!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE TWISTED DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO BE RUDE TO OTHERS!
WHY? WHY?
YOU'RE REALLY SLOW, AREN'T YOU?!!!
DAMN! HOW IN THE WORLD DID I END UP LIKING A THICK-HEADED GIRL LIKE YOU?!

LET'S DROP IT. I'LL LET IT PASS SINCE I'M SMARTER.
HERE, TAKE THIS
SLIDE
WHAT'S THIS...?
A LOVE LETTER?
SHUT UP!
KIND OF OLD-FASHIONED, ISN'T IT?
CAN I OPEN IT NOW?
NO! GO HOME AND READ IT!

...
SHIVER
INTERESTING. SO DIFFERENT IN REAL LIFE.
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU!
LET'S GO, RUBY.
WE MIGHT GET BEATEN UP IF WE STAY LONGER.
O- OKAY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IAN IS THINKING. I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF HE'S BEING HONEST OR JUST
BUT HE DOES SEEM SERIOUS FROM THE WAY HE'S TREATING JEFFERY.
NYAAAAH!
AH! I DON'T GET HIM!

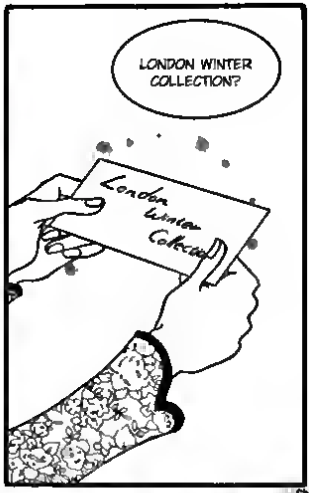
MY RIVAL HAS FINALLY SHOWN UP.
WHA... WHAT!?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU! I DON'T LIKE YOU!
RIVAL, MY ASS!
HA! LIAR! BUT, IT DOESN'T MATTER. I FIND YOU MORE ATTRACTIVE, IAN, BECAUSE YOU'RE A LITTLE TWISTED.
AARGH!

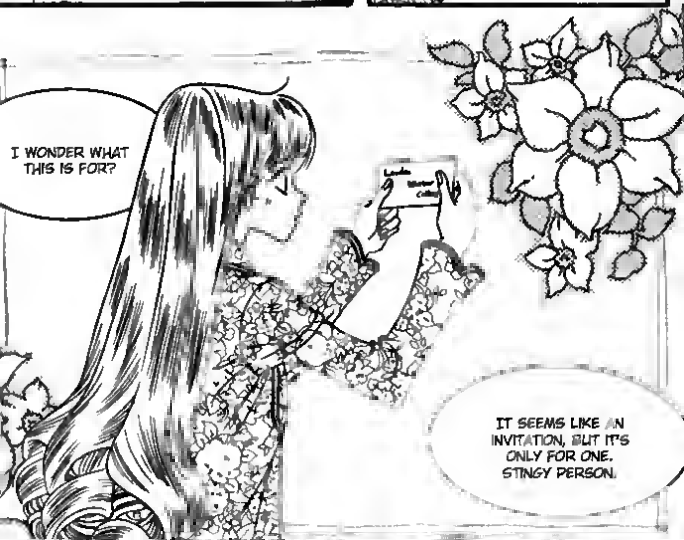
WHAT COULD IT BE? I'M CURIOUS.
GLANCE
DON'T YOU WANT TO OPEN IT, RUBY?
NO.
HE SAID TO OPEN IT AT HOME.
...
HAHAHA!
YOU'RE REALLY STRANGE, RUBY.

I...
I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU, RUBY.
WHAT...?

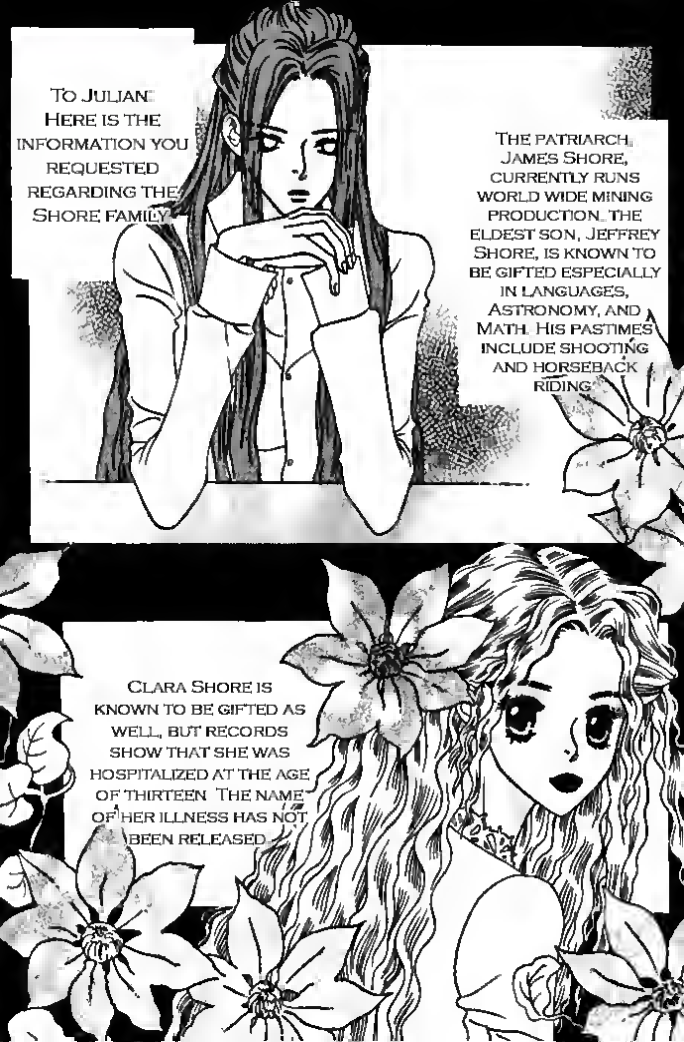
OUTSTANDING, CLARA.
YOU HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF CLASSICAL LITERATURE AND YOUR CALLIGRAPHY IS EXCELLENT.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE A VERY EDUCATED LADY.
TAP
ARE YOU ONLY KIND TO RUBY, TEACHER?
...

CLARA, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM CHATTING DURING THE LESSON.
JULIAN, YOU'RE SO STRICT.
SNIFF
DID YOU FIGHT WITH RUBY?
IF YOU TREAT ME LIKE THIS, RUBY WON'T LIKE IT EITHER.
SIGH


LONDON WINTER COLLECTION?
London Winter Collection


I WONDER WHAT THIS IS FOR?
IT SEEMS LIKE AN INVITATION, BUT IT'S ONLY FOR ONE. STINGY PERSON.

I'LL HAVE TO ASK JULIAN!
JUL...
AH... WE HAVEN'T TALKED SINCE THAT DAY...
JULIAN USUALLY DOESN'T GET UPSET OVER ANYTHING...
DID I DO SOMETHING TERRIBLE?


To Julian: Here is the information you requested regarding the Shore family.
The patriarch, James Shore, currently runs world wide mining production. The eldest son, Jeffrey Shore, is known to be gifted especially in languages, Astronomy, and Math. His pastimes include shooting and horseback riding.
Clara Shore is known to be gifted as well, but records show that she was hospitalized at the age of thirteen. The name of her illness has not been released.

CLOSE
MINING GEMS..
MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T KNOW..
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ

TSK...

SHUT

AMAZING! THAT'S SO COOL, RUBY!
IS.. IS THAT REALLY SO GREAT?
IT'S MORE THAN JUST "GREAT," RUBY.
PLUS, IT'S THE LAST DAY AND SEAT S-7! KYA!!!
WHAT'S THAT?
GETTING INVITED TO ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS FASHION SHOWS IN THE WORLD...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE CATCHING A FALLING STAR!
THAT SEAT IS THE CLOSEST TO THE STAGE!
YOU PROBABLY CAN'T EVEN BUY A SEAT LIKE THAT!

A FASHION SHOW? IS IAN IN IT? I WONDER WHY HE GAVE THIS TO ME...

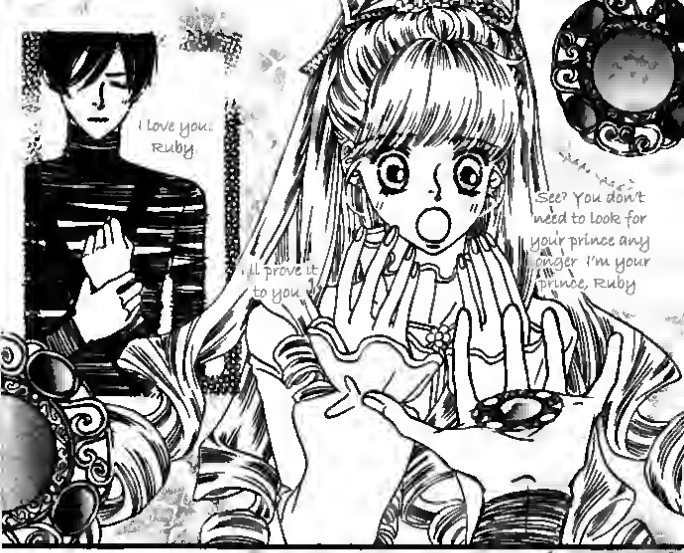
NOT... NOT TO SHOW OFF AGAIN, I HOPE!?
Did you see me?
Haha haha
Whaaa!
SHIYA

...

...
DID HE EAT SOMETHING WRONG?

I- IAN. ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
AH... WHAT DID YOU SAY?
THE THING IS.. YOUR DAD...
HE WANTS TO EXHIBIT THE SWEETY GEM.
SO ..
ARE YOU ASKING ME FOR IT?
Y- YES I GUESS I AM.
TWITCH
AFTER THIS SHOW IS OVER.
...

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM TODAY..?
USUALLY, HE WOULD
NEVER!!
SINCE I ONLY GAVE HER ONE INVITATION, SHE SHOULD COME ALONE
AFTER THE SHOW, WHEN RUBY HAS HAD A CHANCE TO SEE ME, I'LL TELL HER
I'm sorry I've been so mean
Ian


I love you, Ruby
I'll prove it to you
See? You don't need to look for your prince any longer I'm your prince, Ruby

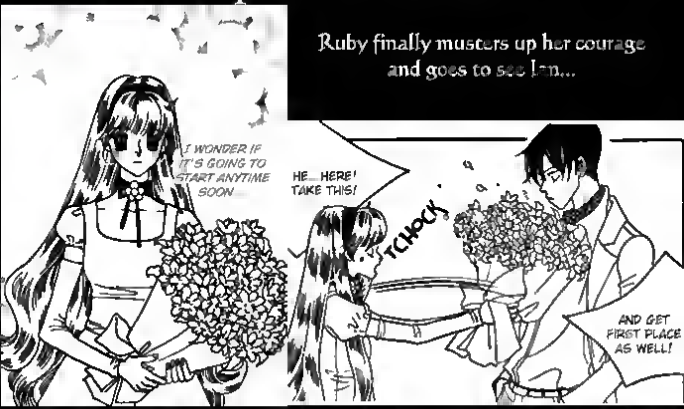
I WASN'T EXPECTING A GUY LIKE JEFFREY TO SHOW UP, BUT AFTER RUBY HAS SEEN THE SWEETY GEM..
HE HE HE
HI. IS THIS THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE LONDON WINTER COLLECTION? MY NAME IS JEFFREY SHORE...
Ah... Jeffrey Shore... The son of Mr. James Shore?

THANK YOU FOR RECOGNIZING ME. I WOULD LIKE TO FIND A SEAT FOR THIS SHOW.
I WOULD LIKE SEAT S-8 ON THE LAST DAY OF THE SHOW.
Ah... I'm sorry That seat has been reserved. Would anather seat...
Mr. Shore supports us every year. Please feel free to speak your wishes.

I DON'T CARE IF YOU GIVE ME EVERY OTHER SEAT IN THE HOUSE. I ONLY WANT S-8.
IF YOU DON'T GET ME THAT SEAT, PLEASE DON'T ANTICIPATE FURTHER SUPPORT FROM MY FAMILY.

CATCH

Chapter 09 Preview


Ruby finally musters up her courage and goes to see Ian...
I WONDER IF IT'S GOING TO START ANYTIME SOON...
HE...HERE! TAKE THIS!
TCHOCK
AND GET FIRST PLACE AS WELL!

THIS IS IAN'S CHANCE TO FINALLY CONFESS TO RUBY, HOWEVER...

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Sweety Gem Volume 12

- Credits -

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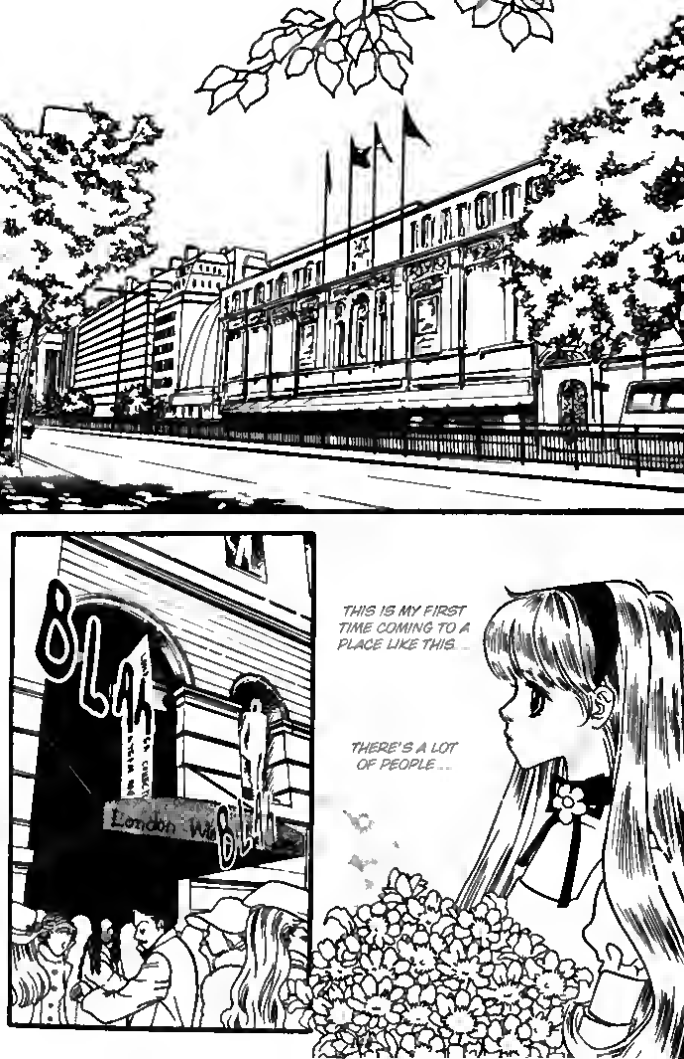
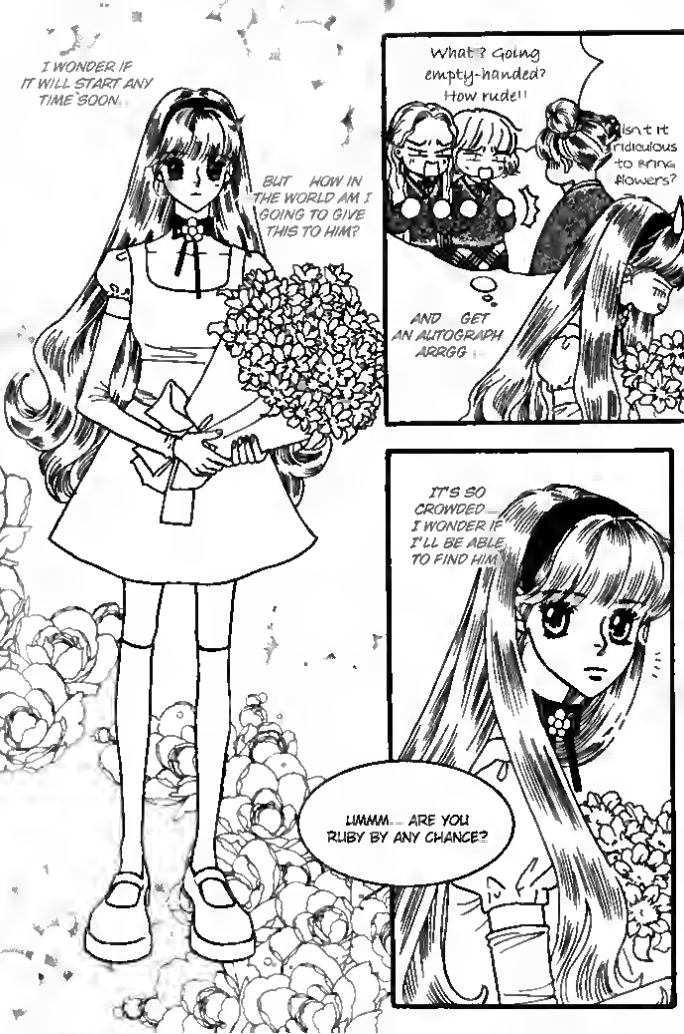
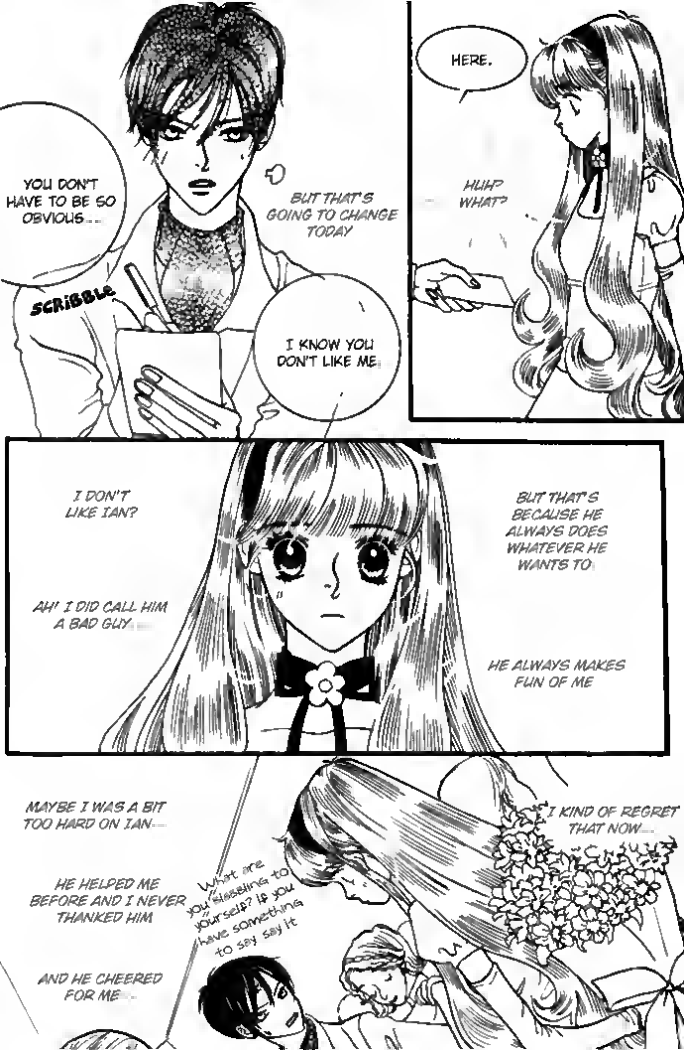

BLA
London W
BLA
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME COMING TO A PLACE LIKE THIS...
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE...


I WONDER IF IT WILL START ANY TIME SOON...
BUT... HOW IN THE WORLD AM I GOING TO GIVE THIS TO HIM?
What!? Going empty-handed? How rude!!
Isn't it ridiculous to bring flowers?
AND... GET AN AUTOGRAPH ARRGG...
IT'S SO CROWDED— I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO FIND HIM!
UMMM... ARE YOU RUBY BY ANY CHANCE?

OH! MR MANAGER!!
IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU!!
YOU CAME AT A GOOD TIME CAN YOU HELP ME GET IAN'S AUTOGRAPH?
HE HE
AUTOGRAPH? I THOUGHT YOU TWO DON'T GET ALONG
FOLLOW ME I'LL TAKE YOU TO IAN
IT... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!
AWW.. YOU TWO ARE SO CUTE! THE MORE YOU LIKE, THE MORE YOU TEASE
H-HEY!!
BLA BLA

IAN!
I MET RUBY AT THE ENTRANCE
UMMM, HI?
WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THAT? HE'S THE ONE WHO INVITED ME...
AH... YOU CAME?
IAN! RUBY WANTS AN AUTOGRAPH! SHE'S A FAN!
NOOO! IT'S NOT FOR ME...


YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO OBVIOUS...
SCRIBBLE
BUT THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE TODAY
I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME.
HERE.
HUH? WHAT?
I DON'T LIKE IAN?
AH! I DID CALL HIM A BAD GUY...
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE HE ALWAYS DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS TO.
HE ALWAYS MAKES FUN OF ME
MAYBE I WAS A BIT TOO HARD ON IAN...
HE HELPED ME BEFORE AND I NEVER THANKED HIM
AND HE CHEERED FOR ME...
What are you blabbing to yourself? If you have something to say say it
I KIND OF REGRET THAT NOW...

H... here! Take this!
THRUST
And... And get first place!
OH MY GOD!! THAT MUST HAVE SOUNDED SO STUPID!
FIRST PLACE IN A FASHION SHOW?

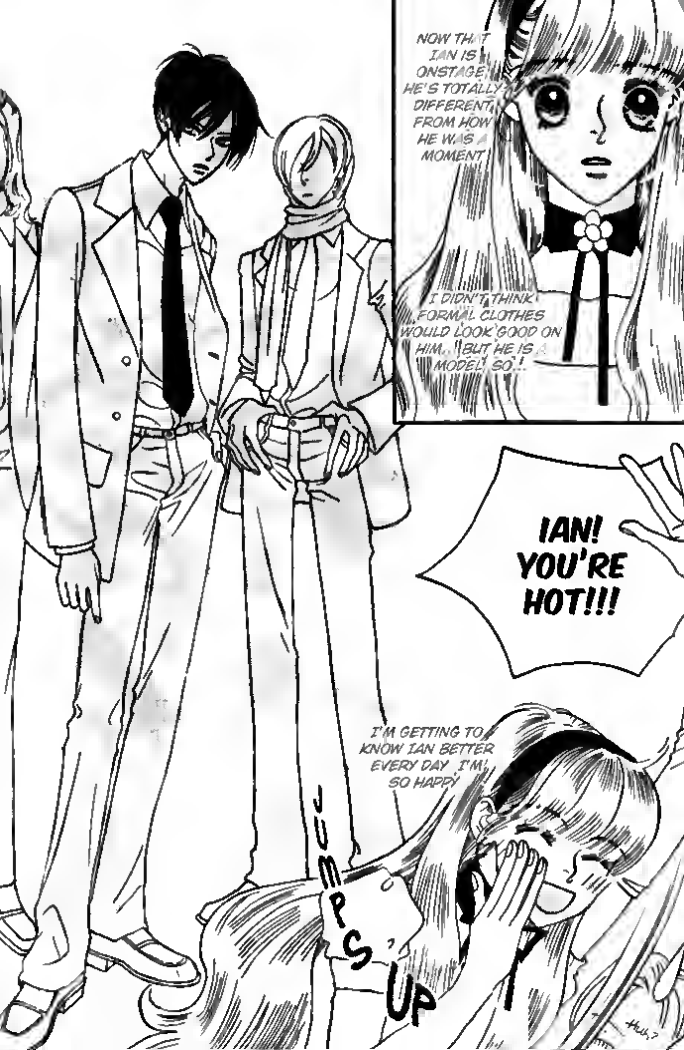
NOOOOO!
HE'S GOING TO LAUGH AT ME!
TH... THANK YOU.
HONESTLY... I WASN'T SURE IF YOU WOULD COME
HUH!?
IAN... HE'S DIFFERENT FROM HOW HE USUALLY IS...

HE LOOKS REALLY HONEST!
WOW! I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE FOUND SOMETHING SPECIAL!
Wha... What!?
Guests, please be seated
smile
RUBY SMILED...
THUMP
SHE SMILED AT ME! And she waved
THUMP
THUMP
OH MY GOD! SHE'S SO CUTE!
SEE YOU LATER!

IF THINGS CONTINUE ON LIKE THIS, IT'LL BE EASY TO TELL HER!
AH!
JEFFREY!
?
I WONDERED IF THAT WAS YOU, RUBY.

WHY... WHY ARE YOU HERE?
A FRIEND OF MINE COULDN'T COME TO THIS SHOW BECAUSE HE WAS SICK. HE GAVE ME HIS INVITATION.
THE SEAT NEXT TO MINE... WHAT A COINCIDENCE
COINCIDENCE? THAT'S FATE, RUBY
IT IS, ISN'T IT?
FLASH

FLASH


NOW THAT IAN IS ONSTAGE, HE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM HOW HE WAS A MOMENT
I DIDN'T THINK FORMAL CLOTHES WOULD LOOK GOOD ON HIM. "BUT HE IS A MODEL," SO...!
IAN! YOU'RE HOT!!!
I'M GETTING TO KNOW IAN BETTER EVERY DAY. I'M SO HAPPY
JUMPS UP
Huh?

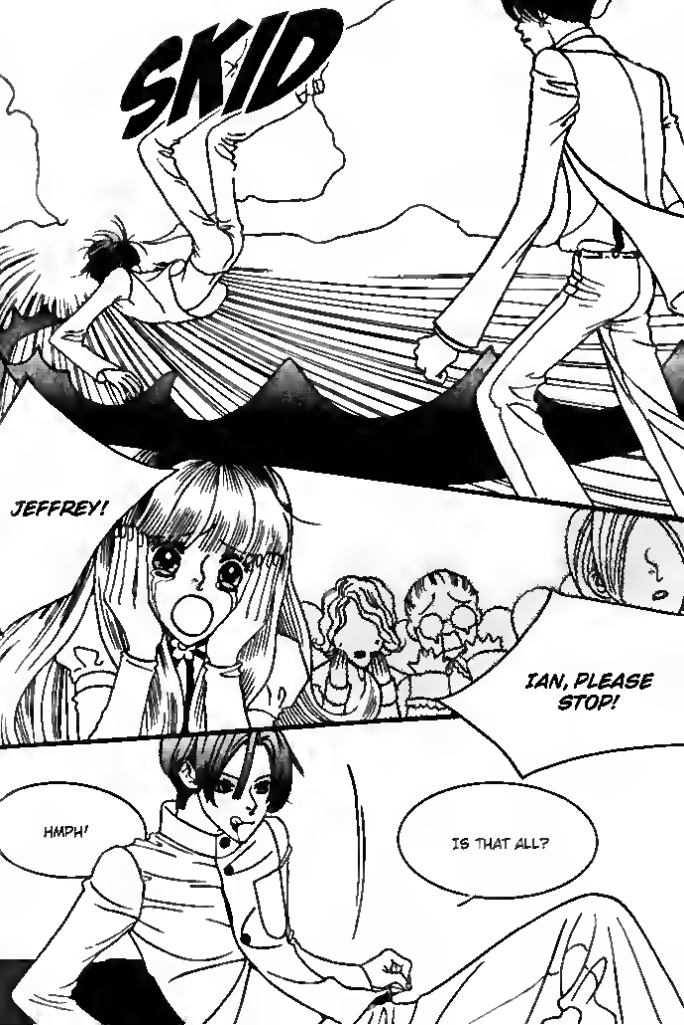
WHAT IN THE WORLD...?
WHY IS THAT GUY SITTING NEXT TO RUBY?...
GLARE
SURPRISE
THUD

HE HE GLARED AT ME!!!
WHAT DID I DO WRONG THIS TIME!?
RUBY!
FALLS OVER
I JUST CHEERED FOR HIM...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ARE YOU HURT?
Hmph... help... help me up, Jeffrey.

SMASH
WHIR
TAP
TAP TAP

IS THAT GUY CRAZY?
STAND BACK, RUBY
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
SOMEONE STOP IAN!!
TATAP
JUMP

IAN!
STOP IT RIGHT NOW!!
PUNCH


SKID
JEFFREY!
IAN, PLEASE STOP!
HMPH'
IS THAT ALL?

PUNCH!
I GUESS I OWE YOU ONE!
DID YOU JUST PUNCH ME? YOU'RE DEAD!
PUNCH
Not the face!
PUNCH PUNCH PUNCH PUNCH
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
PAF PAF
The show had to be put on hold.

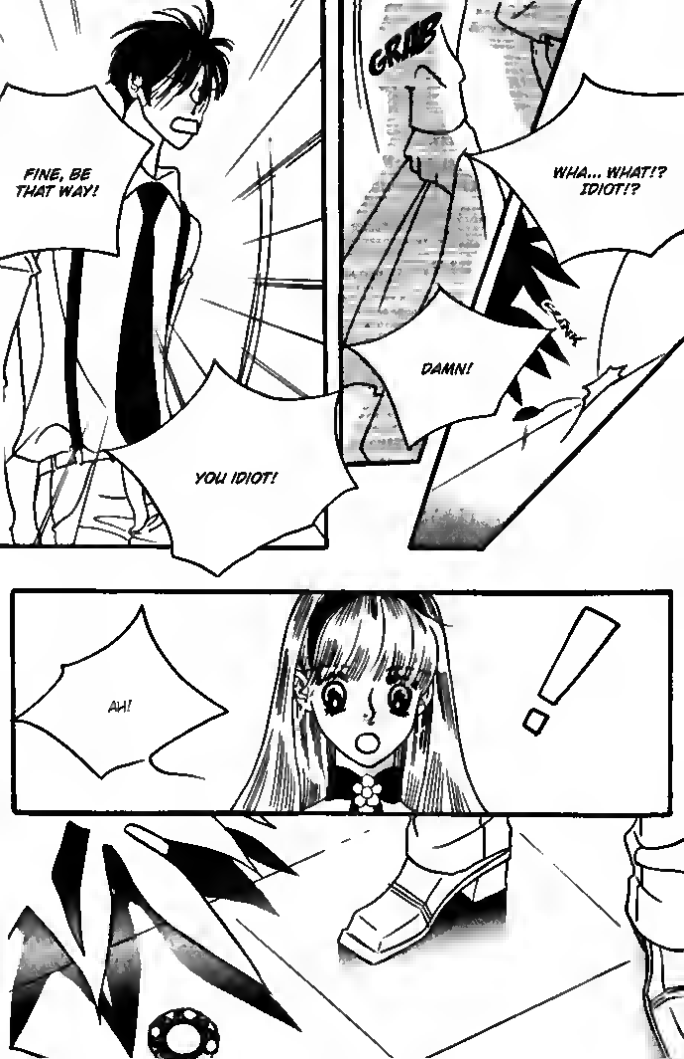
DOES IT HURT A LOT?
IT'S OKAY, RUBY. DON'T WORRY. I'M JUST GLAD YOU DIDN'T GET HURT
HEY! CAN'T YOU SEE I ALSO GOT INJURED!?
I'M HURT TOO!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE!
APOLOGIZE TO JEFFREY!

I'VE WANTED TO BEAT HIM UP SINCE THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM!
NO!
THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO APOLOGIZE.
APOLOGIZE!
WHERE DID THE IAN FROM BEFORE DISAPPEAR TO!?
I'M EXTREMELY ANGRY RIGHT NOW.
IF YOU WERE GOING TO SHOW ME SOMETHING LIKE THIS WHY DID YOU INVITE ME!?
I'M ANGRY TOO.
WELL, WHY DID YOU BRING THAT GUY!?
VERY ANGRY!

WHY?
...
I... YOU...
I DON'T LIKE YOU BEING WITH THAT GUY

IS HE FINALLY GOING TO CONFESS?
thinking hard
WHY?

HAHAHAHA!
WHAT...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHY"...?
HAHAHA!
KNOCK KNOCK
...
IAN, HAVE YOU FINISHED TALKING?
KNOCK
Mr. Manager, who suddenly got a lot older.
WE'VE FINISHED CLEANING UP THE STAGE AREA.


FINE, BE THAT WAY!
YOU IDIOT!
GRAB
WHA... WHAT!? IDIOT!?
DAMN!
CLANK
AH!
!

To be continued in Volume 03...!

Volume 03 Chapter 10 Preview

How will this affect Ian and Ruby's relationship?

THE SWEETY GEM FINALLY REVEALED!

Plus, Ian's mom is ready for a comeback...

And Clara Shore is not far behind...

Is it possible!? Could Julian have feelings for Ruby...?

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